Albert Thomas

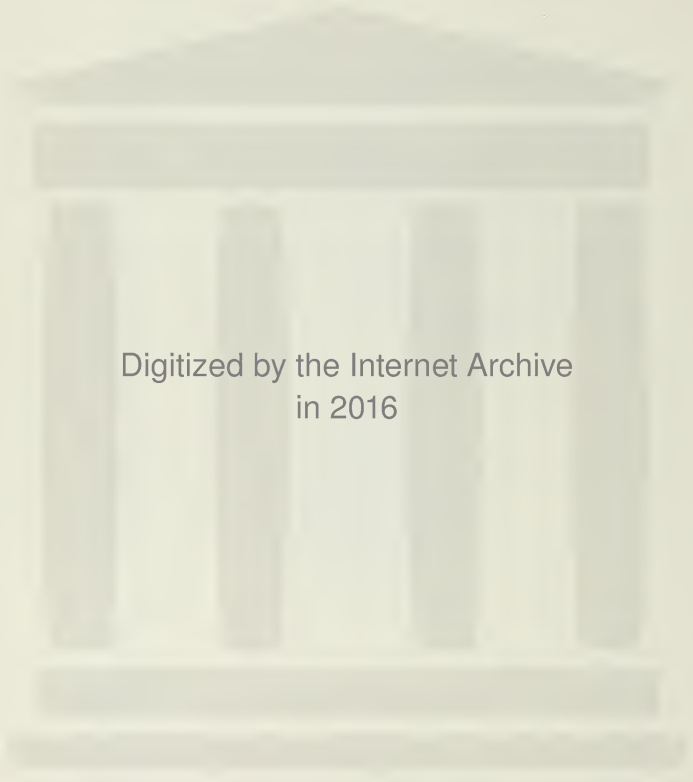
LATE A REPRESENTATIVE FROM TEXAS

MEMORIAL ADDRESSES DELIVERED IN CONGRESS

UNIVERSITY
OF FLORIDA
LIBRARIES

47.1:T36/

FLARE



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2016

https://archive.org/details/memorialservices00wash_95

Memorial Services

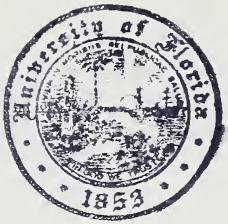
Held in the House of Representatives and Senate
of the United States, together with
remarks presented in eulogy of

Albert Thomas

Late a Representative from Texas

Eighty-ninth Congress
Second Session

U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE
WASHINGTON : 1966



Compiled under the direction
of the
Joint Committee on Printing

Contents

	Page
Biography	VII
Proceedings in the House	1
Announcement of death by the Honorable Wright Patman, of Texas	1
Appointment of committee to attend funeral	2
Prayer by Capt. Harold F. Menges, Chaplain's Corps, U.S. Navy	1
Remarks by Representatives:	
Albert, Carl, of Oklahoma	5
Andrews, George W., of Alabama	22
Andrews, Mark, of North Dakota	52
Arends, Leslie C., of Illinois	8
Beckworth, Lindley, of Texas	56
Bennett, Charles E., of Florida	75
Boggs, Hale, of Louisiana	8
Boland, Edward P., of Massachusetts	26
Brooks, Jack, of Texas	58
Broyhill, James T., of North Carolina	41
Burke, James A., of Massachusetts	81
Burleson, Omar, of Texas	57
Cabell, Earle, of Texas	53
Cahill, William T., of New Jersey	68
Casey, Bob, of Texas	13
Cederberg, Elford A., of Michigan	47
Cleveland, James C., of New Hampshire	37
Cohelan, Jeffery, of California	44
Conte, Silvio O., of Massachusetts	21
Culver, John C., of Iowa	70
Daddario, Emilio Q., of Connecticut	79
de la Garza, Eligio, of Texas	79
Derwinski, Edward J., of Illinois	65
Duncan, Robert B., of Oregon	39
Everett, Robert A., of Tennessee	58
Evins, Joe L., of Tennessee	62
Fallon, George H., of Maryland	51
Farnum, Billie S., of Michigan	80
Fascell, Dante B., of Florida	66
Flynt, John J., Jr., of Georgia	24
Ford, Gerald R., of Michigan	35
Gathings, E. C., of Arkansas	76

Proceedings in the House—Continued
Remarks by Representatives—Continued Page
Griffiths, Martha W., of Michigan 10
Hagen, Harlan, of California 59
Haley, James A., of Florida 44
Halleck, Charles A., of Indiana 9
Halpern, Seymour, of New York 64
Harvey, Ralph, of Indiana 29
Hull, W. R., Jr., of Missouri 45
Ichord, Richard H., of Missouri 42
Jonas, Charles R., of North Carolina 11
Jones, Robert E., of Alabama 48
Keogh, Eugene J., of New York 49
Kirwan, Michael J., of Ohio 52
Kornegay, Horace R., of North Carolina 39
Langen, Odin, of Minnesota 83
Lipscomb, Glenard P., of California 59
McCormack, John W., of Massachusetts 34
Madden, Ray J., of Indiana 80
Mahon, George H., of Texas 6
Matsunaga, Spark M., of Hawaii 72
Mills, Wilbur D., of Arkansas 69
Minshall, William E., of Ohio 20
Morgan, Thomas E., of Pennsylvania 74
Morton, Rogers C. B., of Maryland 41
Murphy, William T., of Illinois 58
Natcher, William H., of Kentucky 39
O'Hara, Barratt, of Illinois 61
Passman, Otto E., of Louisiana 49
Patman, Wright, of Texas 3
Philbin, Philip J., of Massachusetts 76
Pickle, J. J., of Texas 53
Pirnie, Alexander, of New York 37
Poage, W. R., of Texas 27
Pool, Joe, of Texas 55
Purcell, Graham, of Texas 57
Randall, Wm. J., of Missouri 82
Reuss, Henry S., of Wisconsin 74
Rhodes, John J., of Arizona 36
Roberts, Ray, of Texas 53
Rodino, Peter W., Jr., of New Jersey 78
Rogers, Byron G., of Colorado 36
Rogers, Paul G., of Florida 40
Rogers, Walter, of Texas 29
Rostenkowski, Dan, of Illinois 67
Rumsfeld, Donald, of Illinois 77
Schneebeli, Herman T., of Pennsylvania 46

Proceedings in the House—Continued
Remarks by Representatives—Continued Page
Shipley, George E., of Illinois 43
Sikes, Robert L. F., of Florida 25
Slack, John M., Jr., of West Virginia 46
Steed, Tom, of Oklahoma 33
Teague, Olin E., of Texas 67
Thompson, Clark W., of Texas 20
Trimble, James W., of Arkansas 48
Ullman, Al, of Oregon 38
Vanik, Charles A., of Ohio 75
Whalley, J. Irving, of Pennsylvania 38
White, Richard C., of Texas 55
Whitener, Basil L., of North Carolina 69
Whitten, Jamie L., of Mississippi 43
Wright, James C., Jr., of Texas 30
Wydler, John W., of New York 61
Yates, Sidney R., of Illinois 70
Young, John, of Texas 56
Zablocki, Clement J., of Wisconsin 60
Resolution of respect 2
Senate resolution of respect received 3
Memorial addresses in the House of Representatives 85
Aspinall, Wayne N., of Colorado 102
Celler, Emanuel, of New York 99
Chelf, Frank, of Kentucky 106
Corman, James C., of California 95
Daddario, Emilio Q., of Connecticut 100
Dague, Paul B., of Pennsylvania 90
Dulski, Thaddeus J., of New York 103
Farbstein, Leonard, of New York 91
Fisher, O. C., of Texas 90
Giaimo, Robert N., of Connecticut 99
Gonzalez, Henry B., of Texas 96
Hansen, Julia Butler, of Washington 98
Horton, Frank, of New York 104
Kelly, Edna F., of New York 88
McClory, Robert, of Illinois 102
Marsh, John O., Jr., of Virginia 101
Morris, Thomas G., of New Mexico 94
Pelly, Thomas M., of Washington 98
Pool, Joe R., of Texas 88
Reifel, Ben, of South Dakota 95
Rhodes, George M., of Pennsylvania 105
Rivers, L. Mendel, of South Carolina 87
Rooney, Fred B., of Pennsylvania 93
Rooney, John J., of New York 92

Memorial addresses in the House of Representatives—Continued Page
Smith, Neal, of Iowa 97
Stratton, Samuel S., of New York 92
Teague, Olin E., of Texas 89
Proceedings in the Senate 109
Appointment of committee to attend funeral 112
House resolution of respect received 109
Remarks by Senators:
Long, Russell B., of Louisiana 110
Tower, John G., of Texas 109
Yarborough, Ralph W., of Texas 112
Resolution of respect 111
Memorial tributes 113
Bill introduced to rename Veterans' Administration Cemetery at Houston by Senator Ralph W. Yarborough, of Texas 161
Evins, Joe L., Representative from Tennessee 115
Letter from Director Leland J. Haworth, National Science Foundation 115
Mahon, George H., Representative from Texas 165
Resolution by the Committee on Appropriations 165
Patman, Wright, Representative from Texas 148
Statement from Houston Chronicle, February 15, 1966 148
Resolutions of Houston organizations introduced by Senator Ralph W. Yarborough, of Texas 162
Yarborough, Ralph W., Senator from Texas 116
Articles from—
Houston Post, February 16, 1966 130, 137, 141
Houston Chronicle, February 17, 1966 126, 127
Editorials from—
Houston Chronicle, February 15, 1966 117–125
Houston Chronicle, February 16, 1966 145
Houston Post, February 16, 1966 132–136, 138, 143, 144
Houston Chronicle, February 17, 1966 128–130
Houston Chronicle, February 18, 1966 143
Yarborough, Ralph W., Senator from Texas, further tribute by 149
Articles from—
Houston Chronicle, February 19, 1966 151
Houston Post, February 19, 1966 153, 155, 158
Houston Chronicle, February 24, 1966 161
Editorials from—
Houston Chronicle, February 18, 1966 149
Houston Post, February 19, 1966 159

Biography

Albert Thomas was born in Nacogdoches, Tex., April 12, 1898; attended the public schools; during the First World War served as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army; was graduated from Rice Institute, Houston, Tex., in 1920 and from the law department of the University of Texas at Austin in 1926; was admitted to the bar in 1927 and began practice in Nacogdoches, Tex.; county attorney of Nacogdoches County, Tex., 1927–30; assistant U.S. district attorney for the southern district of Texas 1930–36; elected as a Democrat to the Seventy-fifth and to the 14 succeeding Congresses, serving from January 3, 1937, until his death in Washington, D.C., on February 15, 1966; interment in Veterans' Administration Cemetery, Houston, Tex.

MEMORIAL SERVICES

FOR

ALBERT THOMAS

Proceedings in the House

TUESDAY, *February 15, 1966.*

The House met at 12 o'clock noon.

Capt. Harold F. Menges, Chaplain's Corps, U.S. Navy, offered the following prayer:

St. John 9:4: *And Jesus answered, I must work the works of Him that sent Me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work.*

Holy Father and God of all mankind, hear us pray.

Accept our grateful thanks for every blessing of Thine which has brought us to this good hour.

Bless us now with wisdom, good judgment, and sound counsel that we may do that which is pleasing in Thy sight. Help us to be intelligent, resourceful, and alert that we may face and solve the problems of the day in such a way as to spread justice and freedom throughout the land.

When we are ignorant, give us knowledge. When we are asleep, awaken us. When we walk in darkness, lead us in the path of the just which is as the shining light which shineth more and more unto the perfect day.

We thank Thee for Thy servant with whom we walked and worked for a little while upon this earth. Thou hast received him into Thy nearer presence. Give unto his family and loved ones the consolation of Thy grace.

For in the Master's name we ask it. Amen.

Mr. PATMAN. Mr. Speaker, it is my sad duty to announce the death of our beloved colleague, the gentleman from Texas, ALBERT THOMAS. Time for eulogies by Members of the House will soon be arranged and announcement made.

Memorial services for Congressman THOMAS will be held tomorrow morning at 11 o'clock a.m. at the National Cathedral here in Washington, at the Bethlehem Chapel.

Funeral services will be held at 2 o'clock p.m. this Friday at the First Methodist Church, Houston, Tex.

Mr. Speaker, I offer a resolution.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

HOUSE RESOLUTION 730

Resolved, That the House has heard with profound sorrow of the death of the Honorable ALBERT THOMAS, a Representative from the State of Texas.

Resolved, That a committee of fifty Members of the House, with such Members of the Senate as may be joined, be appointed to attend the funeral.

Resolved, That the Sergeant at Arms of the House be authorized and directed to take such steps as may be necessary for carrying out the provisions of these resolutions and that the necessary expenses in connection therewith be paid out of the contingent fund of the House.

Resolved, That the Clerk communicate these resolutions to the Senate and transmit a copy thereof to the family of the deceased.

Resolved, That as a further mark of respect the House do now adjourn.

The resolution was agreed to.

ADJOURNMENT

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 10 minutes p.m.), the House adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, February 16, 1966, at 12 o'clock noon.

WEDNESDAY, *February 16, 1966.*

HOUSE COMMITTEE APPOINTED TO ATTEND FUNERAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair appoints as members of the committee to attend the funeral of our late colleague, ALBERT THOMAS, the following Members of the House: Mr. Patman, Mr. Mahon, Mr. Kirwan, Mr. Poage, Mr. Whitten, Mr. Fisher, Mr. Holifield, Mr. Rooney of New York, Mr. Fogarty, Mr. Price, Mr. Teague of Texas, Mr. Burleson, Mr. Evins, Mr. Passman, Mr. Thompson of Texas, Mr. Steed, Mr. Bow, Mr. Rogers of Texas, Mr. Dowdy, Mr. Boland, Mr. Brooks, Mr. Hosmer, Mr. Jonas, Mr. Laird, Mr. Rhodes

of Arizona, Mr. Flood, Mr. Denton, Mr. Minshall, Mr. Wright, Mr. Beckworth, Mr. Young, Mr. Casey, Mr. Giaimo, Mr. Morris, Mr. Shipley, Mr. Gonzalez, Mr. Purcell, Mr. Roberts, Mr. Pool, Mr. Pickle, Mr. Cabell, Mr. de la Garza, and Mr. White of Texas.

THURSDAY, *February 17, 1966.*

A message from the Senate announced that the Senate had passed a resolution, as follows:

SENATE RESOLUTION 225

Resolved, That the Senate had heard with profound sorrow the announcement of the death of Hon. ALBERT THOMAS, late a Representative from the State of Texas.

Resolved, That a committee of two Senators be appointed by the Presiding Officer to join the committee appointed on the part of the House of Representatives to attend the funeral of the deceased Representative.

Resolved, That the Secretary communicate these resolutions to the House of Representatives and transmit an enrolled copy thereof to the family of the deceased.

Resolved, That, as a further mark of respect to the memory of the deceased, the Senate do now adjourn.

MONDAY, *February 28, 1966.*

Mr. PATMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise with a heavy burden of personal grief to announce to the Members of the House the death of their colleague and my dear friend, the Honorable ALBERT THOMAS, of Texas.

I have had the great gift of his friendship since he was first elected to this body in 1936. In all the many years that we served together, I found him always a pillar of strength, the soul of integrity, and an extraordinarily able and hard-working man, ever concerned with the well-being of those he represented, of the Government which he served, and of the country which he loved.

Most of us who were close to him have been aware of the seriousness of the illness with which he was afflicted. We have seen him bravely endure surgery time after time. He fought the good fight

all of his life; it was not in him to act and differently when life had reached its sunset. He suffered with courage, with the grace of one who did not wish that those who loved him should grieve. The fight is over, and his suffering is over. Those who loved him do indeed grieve at his passing, and I here acknowledge the extent of the loss that I feel.

He was born in Nacogdoches, Tex., in 1898, attended public schools there, and entered Rice Institute prior to the First World War. When the United States entered the conflict, he immediately joined the Army, and was commissioned as a very young second lieutenant. After the war, he returned to Rice where he obtained a bachelor's degree. He then was graduated from the University of Texas Law School in 1926. He came back to Nacogdoches and was elected to the combined offices of district and county attorney. He was reelected to a second term which he was unable to complete, since his abilities had won for him the post of assistant U.S. attorney for the southern district of Texas.

He served with distinction for 6 years in that office of public trust and responsibility, and then won election to Congress in 1936 to represent the Eighth Congressional District in Harris County, Houston, Tex. By the summer of 1938 he had obtained no less than 12 PWA projects and $9 million worth of Federal flood control projects for his district. Throughout his congressional career he concerned himself mightily with Houston's problems of flood control, navigation, and waterways. Houston's ability to cope with the present huge shipping traffic that fills its ports is due in large measure to his magnificent efforts through the long years of his service in the House of Representatives.

Houston owes much else to him, such as the Veterans' Administration hospital on Holcombe Boulevard, the city's freeways built in large part from Federal funds, the Houston ship channel, the Manned Space Craft Center, the Texas Medical Center, and many, many more constructive, progressive, and valuable projects.

He never forgot his constituents. He tried to read all of their letters to him, and to dictate answers on the same day their letters were received. He was proud of the extent of his information on the wishes, needs, and beliefs of those he represented in this House. He liked to tell the people in his district that he made up his mind about

his vote on any bill by reading what they had written to him about it, by talking with as many of them as he could and then deciding the correct and fair thing to do. He was one of the most conscientious men I have ever known.

On January 22, 1949, he was selected to be the chairman of the Independent Offices Subcommittee of the House Appropriations Committee. His chairmanship during the many years since his appointment to that highly important post has been a monument to his scrupulous honesty, his dedication to detail, to progress, and to achievement, his knowledge of the legislative process, of the needs of the Federal Government, and of the ways and wishes of his colleagues whose judgment he always respected and whose friendship he deeply treasured.

I am too deeply moved by his passing to recount the details of his many achievements as a man and as a Member of the House of Representatives. Moreover, the record of accomplishment which he established here is known to most of his colleagues, as was his warmth of spirit and generosity of heart. All who know him will deeply mourn his loss. All who had the honor of serving with him will know how great was his contribution in effort and dedication to the heavy burden and awesome responsibilities of the work of the House.

As we express our most profound regrets for his loss to the members of his family, we must also offer our sympathies to those whom he served so faithfully and so well, his constituents of the Eighth Congressional District of Texas and Americans everywhere.

Mr. ALBERT. Mr. Speaker, I join the distinguished dean of the Texas delegation in his words of tribute to one of the great legislators of all times.

ALBERT THOMAS was indeed a key Member of this body for many, many years. He bore critical responsibilities because of his long experience, his committee assignments, and his exceptional abilities, for many major programs and decisions affecting our Nation's defenses, her atomic energy program, and the operation of the independent agencies of Government.

ALBERT met his responsibilities with uncommon gifts and dedication. He was a professional in the finest sense of the word. He was

the tireless shepherd of his congressional district, the faithful Member performing his duties to the House, the strong, decisive yet cooperative leader in committee. He was in every aspect of his service completely impressive and unfailingly effective.

ALBERT THOMAS was one of the most articulate debaters ever to serve in this body. He has many times captured the ear and persuaded the House by his peerless skill in argument, as he captured our hearts with his warmth and compassion. Our colleague was a gentleman whose every word and act were stamped with the high quality of his Christian career.

I shall miss my Texas friend and neighbor who had given me a helping hand on countless occasions over the years. My personal loss is great; the loss suffered by the House and by the Nation with the passing of this outstanding American is beyond estimate.

Mrs. Albert and I extend our sympathy to Mrs. Thomas, their daughters, and to all their loved ones.

Mr. MAHON. As one who served for many years alongside the late ALBERT THOMAS, I can certainly speak firsthand about him, about his qualities of character, and the excellence of his performance as a Representative in Congress.

Our late friend served in this House for more than 29 years. Some of us treasure the memory of having served with him during all those exciting, eventful, and fruitful years. Others served with him for a lesser time, but they do not have lesser respect for the memory of this great man.

I was thinking this morning as I came to the office, on this question: What were the qualities that made the late ALBERT THOMAS great?

In my mind, I summed it up about like this: He knew how to work with the Members of the legislative branch. He had the right technique, the right spirit of mind and heart.

He had the understanding. He knew how to work with the Members of the legislative branch in committee, on the floor of the House of Representatives, and in conference with the Members of the other body.

He was always effective, superb. He was always the master of the

situation. There is something about us all that causes us to accord respect to the man who is the master of the situation.

In the second place, our friend knew how to work with the people of the executive branch. Through the years he dealt, with calm and dispassionate justice and great effectiveness, with the executive branch of the Government. And as a result of his good work many benefits accrued to the Nation.

But these talents alone are not sufficient for a Representative in the Congress. He must also know how to work with the people of his district. This departed friend knew how to work with the people of the city of Houston, a thriving and growing and sophisticated metropolis. He knew how to deal with the humble and the weak and the poor, and he knew how to deal with the rich and the mighty. ALBERT THOMAS loved them all. His people have lost a great and effective advocate.

ALBERT THOMAS was able to perform many of these things because he did his homework. He did the work necessary to make himself the master of the situation on the floor and elsewhere. He was dedicated. His major earthly love—outside of the love which he cherished for his wonderful wife, Lera, and his two daughters, Anne and Lera—his great love was for the House of Representatives.

In a very special way the late ALBERT THOMAS should be remembered as a man of great courage. Those of us who knew him best saw in recent years an exhibition of courage which I think I have never seen before in my lifetime.

My colleagues will remember the statue erected to Christoper Columbus out in front of the Union Station here in the Capitol. Chiseled in stone on this statue are these words:

> To Christopher Columbus whose high faith and indomitable courage gave to mankind a new world.

Now when I think of indomitable courage, I think of the late ALBERT THOMAS. He exhibited indomitable courage to a degree rarely known among men.

Mr. Speaker, I shall not deal here in a recitation of accomplishments. I simply wish to join with you today in tribute to the memory of this very great, tall fellow Texan, this warm personal friend, the late ALBERT THOMAS, of Houston.

Mrs. Mahon and I extend our continued sympathy to Mrs. Thomas, Anne, and Lera.

Mr. AREND. Mr. Speaker, I, too, with a very heavy heart, join with my colleagues today in paying tribute to our late departed friend and colleague in the House, ALBERT THOMAS. I served with ALBERT the many, many years that he was privileged to be here as a Representative of a fine district in Texas. He was a truly outstanding individual, a dedicated public servant, and one who served exceedingly well and with distinction.

ALBERT THOMAS was my friend and I was proud of his friendship. His district, his State, and this Nation will miss him and the objective and forthright leadership that he provided in this House. His was indeed a notable career. We grieve at his passing.

Mrs. Arends joins me in extending to his lovely wife and daughters our heartfelt sympathy.

Mr. BOGGS. Mr. Speaker, it has been written that courage mounts with the occasion. Our departed colleague, my friend ALBERT THOMAS, as the gentleman from Texas [Mr. Mahon] said a few minutes ago—a giant in the service of his people, of his State, and of his Nation—truly exemplified that expression that courage mounts with the occasion. In the face of great pain and suffering for almost a decade ALBERT THOMAS worked tirelessly on, never complaining to anyone. In the last decade of his life the city of Houston which he represented for so many years, ended the greatest era of its advancement, an almost fantastic period of growth and prosperity. That modern city today, thriving, progressive, and forward looking, in many ways is a living monument to ALBERT THOMAS, for it was he who led the way in the development of that city.

We have lost a noble and dedicated public servant, a fine human being, who, as has been said here, knew how to deal with his colleagues here, with his friends downtown, and with his constituents who gave him courage and gave him support time after time. ALBERT THOMAS leaves behind him many monuments, but I suspect the greatest are not the material examples which he made a reality for his district and his State but that world of personal courage and fortitude—his will to live, his determination to carry on despite tremendous odds and suffering.

Mr. Speaker, ALBERT THOMAS and the spirit he leaves behind is one which binds up and strengthens the sinews of our heritage; and at the same time, this spirit looks ahead with vision and initiative to build a stronger America, a progressive America. Never would he subscribe to a static society—to a standpat country. It is the spirit a man leaves by which he is best remembered; and ALBERT THOMAS possessed that spirit in rare quality. His vision was always toward the future—he never looked back, or dwelt on what might have been.

On this sad occasion, I am proud to salute ALBERT THOMAS for the exemplary service which he rendered for our country. I am proud to salute him for those things which he did for us and for this House. I am happy that I had the honor and privilege to share his friendship.

So, Mr. Speaker, I join with all of you in paying tribute to a friend who was dear to all of us, in saying to his lovely wife and his lovely daughters how much we shall miss him.

Mr. HALLECK. It was just about a year ago—within a matter of a few days—that a number of us from both sides of the aisle took part in the dedication of the new gymnasium in the Rayburn Building.

The event of the evening which will always mean most to me was the unveiling of a portrait of ALBERT THOMAS.

This portrait hangs today in the gym—a fitting tribute to a colleague who gave so unselfishly of his time and energies as chairman of the gym committee.

It was my happy privilege on that occasion to say a few words, among them these:

> For AL THOMAS, let me say that in my book he is one of the best men I have ever known. I have one brother, a doctor back in Indiana. ALBERT, I just wish that I could have had you for a brother, too.

I never meant anything more in my life.

As far as our careers here in the House of Representatives are concerned, we grew up together, so to speak.

And with each passing session my respect and admiration for this kindly, competent, and courageous man rose higher and higher.

I remember one time when a great Secretary of State of this coun-

try was critically ill with something of like fashion, President Eisenhower saying to me on one occasion:

He does not worry about doing his job next year; he just worries about doing his job today.

Those of us who were here with ALBERT know of his physical difficulties and the great courage that was shown through every day as he carried on here in the House of Representatives.

AL THOMAS was far and away one of the most effective debaters I have known in my time here in this body.

The significant contributions he made in matters of critical concern to the Nation reflected his dedication and diligence as chairman of the Subcommittee on Independent Offices of the great Committee on Appropriations.

There was no question in anyone's mind, when AL THOMAS got to his feet to defend or oppose a point at issue, as our colleague, the gentleman from Texas [Mr. Mahon], said, he had done his homework well and thoroughly.

His untimely passing is a heavy loss to the country he served so long and so devotedly.

It is a loss to this body, to his native State of Texas, and to all who knew and loved him.

May his bereaved family be consoled in the knowledge that he left a legacy of magnificent service none of us shall ever forget.

Mrs. GRIFFITHS. Mr. Speaker, I arise to express my sorrow at the passing of ALBERT THOMAS and to offer my deep sympathy to his widow and his family.

ALBERT THOMAS was not only an informed and intelligent legislator, he moved with wit and laughter to accomplish his purposes. He was one of those few people who also brought out the wit of those around him—so, that where he was, there laughter also.

One afternoon, during the great debate over the far-out design of the Air Force chapel, I was sitting beside Louis Rabaut, also a member of the Appropriations Committee, listening as men attacked and defended both the design and the cost of the chapel.

Presently, ALBERT THOMAS came down the aisle. He stopped beside Louis and said, "Louie, I would not mind voting for this thing, but what are those 17 chicken wishbone affairs supposed to represent?" He pointed to the aisles. Quick as a wink, Rabaut re-

plied "Why ALBERT, those represent the 12 apostles and the 5 members of the subcommittee."

When ALBERT had moved on; Louie said to me "THOMAS is one of the best members of the committee."

All who knew ALBERT THOMAS will remember him, and all who remember him, will remember the moments of laughter they enjoyed with him. The joy of life is diminished with his death.

Mr. JONAS. Mr. Speaker, when I learned of ALBERT THOMAS' death I felt almost as if the world itself had been shaken, or as if the foundation was crumbling. I had watched ALBERT'S tenacious fight for his life during the last few years and had come to believe that he was indestructible. Although I knew within my own heart that he could not win that battle, he displayed so much courage and so much determination to live that at first I was not prepared to accept the knowledge that it was all over. So even though I had to know that the end was inevitable, nevertheless it was a great shock to me when it came. And as I heard the news that he was gone I recalled the words of the poet who said:

> Our little systems have their day,
> They have their day and cease to be,
> But Thou, O Lord, art more than they.

Much more important than that we sat on opposite sides of the aisle in Congress was the rewarding experience of sitting beside him in a small hearing room of the Independent Offices Subcommittee of the House Committee on Appropriations for almost 14 years. I can say that throughout that experience he was uniformly courteous, considerate, and kind. I never saw him when he did not display in his personal conduct all of the qualities and attributes of a gentleman. He was a man with all the social graces yet he was not interested in Washington society because the most important things in life for him were his family and his work.

No one can work in close association with another for nearly 14 years without learning a great deal about him. I not only knew ALBERT as a man of keen intellect and of outstanding ability, without a peer in my judgment in analyzing budget requests, in examining witnesses on the intricate details of the budget, in building a record, and in presenting the finished product on the floor for the approval of our colleagues, but as a warm personal friend. I have

always had the feeling that nothing finer could have happened to me in my congressional life than when I was assigned to work on the subcommittee which he headed with such distinction. The lessons I learned from him in that subcommittee have been invaluable, but these things have a way of passing and of being forgotten. The thing I shall never forget about ALBERT THOMAS was the warm and friendly smile he always gave me and the friendship he so generously extended to me.

It is strange and somewhat ironic that you can work closely with a man for 14 years, realizing all the while that you admire, respect, and depend upon him, and yet with his passing all of a sudden realize that your feelings run even deeper than you had suspected. There is a gulf, a tremendous sense of loss—almost inexplicable and beyond comfort. That is the feeling I have as I realize that this tall Texan is no longer among us. I will leave it to others to cite his many accomplishments, victories, and successes. My purpose today is to recount my own personal sense of loss in his passing.

It is sometimes fashionable for mourners to become preoccupied with rhetoric in seeking to say something that will seemingly fit the man to the words. It is not so in what I shall say because in my book ALBERT THOMAS was a man whose life virtually burst the bounds imposed by words. The mystical shroud of death has engulfed his body but no one would want those of us who remain to be deprived of the spirit of the man. Certainly the world is a bit better for his having abided a time here. When you consider all of the troubles, wars, diseases, and pestilences that confront our weary planet that is saying a great deal. The seasons come and go and the years pass and each one seems to remove a loved one from our midst. This time it was ALBERT THOMAS: statesman, leader, legislator, friend. He leaves many visible monuments of his diligent service to district, State, and Nation. These monuments will keep alive his memory in Houston and elsewhere, but the monument which will remain in my memory is more lasting than bronze.

When I think of ALBERT THOMAS today, and as I shall think of him in the days ahead, Shakespeare's words in "Julius Caesar" seem most appropriate:

> His life was gentle, and the elements
> So mix'd in him that Nature might stand up
> And say to all the world—"This was a man."

To the gracious Mrs. Thomas, who stood by her husband's side throughout his long struggle for life and who selflessly devoted so much of her time and energy ministering to his comfort, and whose courage matched his own during the ordeal through which they both passed, and to their two lovely daughters who meant so much to ALBERT and who mean so much to their mother in this hour of sorrow, I extend my profound sympathy. They have lost a devoted husband and father and I have lost a true friend.

Mr. CASEY. Mr. Speaker, it is indeed with a great sense of loss that I join my colleagues today in paying tribute to the late, great ALBERT THOMAS from Harris County, Tex.

ALBERT THOMAS is not only a legend on the floor of the House of Representatives, he is truly a legend in Houston and Harris County.

The first vote I ever had the privilege of casting at the age of 21 was for ALBERT THOMAS in his first great race for his seat in this House of Representatives. ALBERT THOMAS was an underdog in that race—a tall, straight, energetic, young man who had served with distinction in the U.S. district attorney's office which, as most of you know, is not one of the places that you are apt to come in contact with the greatest mass of people. But ALBERT THOMAS with his great personality and his great vigor went around to see the man on the street. The manner in which he campaigned is legendary. After his victory over what was then considered the most powerful political figure in Harris County, he went back and retraced his steps to thank the voters who had bestowed this honor upon him. From that time on, ALBERT THOMAS was in the hearts of everyone in Harris County.

I never will forget my own first political race. I was running for the State legislature. The first question anyone would ask me—and they would bristle a little when they said it—was, "Are you running against ALBERT THOMAS?" As soon as I assured them I had no such high and mighty ideas, they would talk to me.

ALBERT THOMAS was a legend in many of his mannerisms, some of which you are very familiar with. His trademark of "podner"—an expression of affection for his fellowman—his glasses, up on his forehead—when he was perhaps about to challenge you or to give it to a witness before a committee who needed a little deflation—or when he was about to throw a humorous barb at a colleague.

I can tell you that you cannot turn a corner anywhere in Houston or in Harris County without seeing the mark of ALBERT THOMAS on it. Our great Houston ship channel, which he guided during his 30 years in Congress, has grown from a fairly energetic port to second in the Nation. That did not just happen. It took men—and a man like ALBERT THOMAS—to see that this came about.

Houston's great airport is there because of ALBERT THOMAS.

Our freeway system is there because of ALBERT THOMAS.

Mind you, those are the big things; but I can tell you that the first time I ever wrote to ALBERT THOMAS I was still in college. I merely dropped a post card to him. I wanted to make slight inquiry about a particular aviation program. As the boy said, I really did not "want to know that much." But ALBERT THOMAS not only saw that I got the information but he also wrote a personal letter with an invitation to come back for more if I needed more information. He did not know me from Adam at that time, I know.

ALBERT THOMAS' shoes will never be filled. His footsteps are hard to follow. He has left such a mark in Harris County that all of us strive to partially achieve it.

It is indeed fitting that the newspapers of Harris County should write very glowing editorials and accolades about ALBERT, and they know that the words are inadequate. I know that my words today are inadequate to express the high admiration that I have for this lost colleague.

He was a man who loved his family, and his devoted family bore with him this tremendous burden that he had during his last years. No man showed more courage than did ALBERT THOMAS in these past years. An ordinary man would have possibly ended it sooner. But ALBERT THOMAS was not an ordinary man.

As county judge of Harris County before I had the privilege of joining this distinguished body, I had occasion to work with ALBERT THOMAS on many affairs of Harris County. As administrative head of the county, when we had problems, all I needed to do was to pick up the telephone and say "Congressman, we have a problem." He said, "What is it?" When I told him he said, "Well, we had better attend to it."

One of the first that I had in my capacity as county judge was the

great flood-control problem. Houston is a better place to live in for that one project alone.

I can tell you without hesitation and without equivocation that there will never be another ALBERT THOMAS in Harris County. But he has given us all something to strive for. He has given us all an idea of what dedication to public service is.

I, and my wife, Hazel, offer our deepest sympathy to his devoted and lovely wife, Lera, and his two lovely daughters, "Little Lera" and Anne. We will miss him with you. We bear this burden with you. God grant that we can all try and strive to serve our communities and the people that we represent in the manner in which this great and distinguished Texan has done.

Mr. Speaker, I include as part of this Record editorials and articles from the Houston Chronicle, the Houston Post, the Pasadena News Citizen, and KHOU-TV:

[From the Houston (Tex.) Post, Feb. 16, 1966]

THOMAS ALWAYS HAD TIME—"FOLKS" CAME FIRST

(By Franklin Reed)

WASHINGTON.—It was November 20, 1945, and a 16-year-old Houston youth, in Washington to appear on a radio program, dropped by the office of Congressman ALBERT THOMAS.

Possibly, the young Houstonian thought, a busy Congressman could take 30 seconds to shake hands with someone from the old hometown.

The Congressman took 30 seconds to shake hands. Then he took 30 minutes to chat with his visitor in the office; another 30 minutes to take him to lunch and—most memorable of all to the visitor—another 30 minutes to take him onto the floor of the House of Representatives to sit and listen, enraptured, as if he were a Congressman himself.

All this, when the visitor would have been sufficiently flattered with a simple handshake.

As much as anything, this was ALBERT THOMAS. He seemed to feel that nothing was too good for the home folks. The fact that one of them might be only 16 years old and couldn't vote didn't make a bit of difference to him.

And thus it is that a man who could easily be remembered for big things may come to be remembered more for little things—thousands of seemingly inconsequential acts, courtesies, and favors for the best people in the world to him, the residents of the Eighth Congressional District of Texas.

At his death, Houstonians in uncounted and uncountable numbers are probably calling forth some personal memory of the Congressman.

Maybe it was a lunch date, or a phone call, or a letter of congratulations

or condolence, or an appointment to a service academy, or help in cutting through the redtape of Washington.

As they do this, this is their memory of ALBERT THOMAS.

The writers of the Constitution wanted the House of Representatives to be close to the people. THOMAS, though he had great power and prestige, which often make a man remote, never forgot this.

How is it that I know so much about that 16-year-old Houston youth? I was that youth.

MEMORIES OF ALBERT THOMAS, A FRIEND

(By Morris Frank)

Many fitting eulogies have been written in tribute to ALBERT THOMAS. Certainly I would not attempt to add to any of them.

ALBERT THOMAS, though, was not only a great statesman but a great friend. And I have many happy memories of my friend ALBERT THOMAS who grew up, so to speak, in good old Nacogdoches.

In fact, in a way, ALBERT and I had similar starts in life. Both of our fathers had dry good stores in east Texas, ALBERT'S, of course, in Nacogdoches, ours in Lufkin.

As I always told ALBERT, he went on from his dad's dry goods store to stellar accomplishments. While I just went on.

We used to kid lots about the Lufkin-Nacogdoches rivalries.

Like others who knew ALBERT when, I took pride in his attainments.

However, being he was from Nacogdoches and I was from Lufkin, we wouldn't let that friendship interfere with our respective loyalties.

Indeed, one of the stories ALBERT got the biggest kick from was an experience I told him about.

I was on the cruiser *Houston* when it was coming to Houston for Navy Day after World War II. I was on a newspaper assignment. We were docked at Guantanamo, Cuba. The cruiser captain was a fine fellow but he was very conscious of protocol. I had quarters on the top deck near the captain's. ALBERT was due to join us at Guantanamo. The captain told me one day:

"Mr. Frank, I hate to ask you this. But Congressman ALBERT THOMAS is to join us. He is a big factor in the naval appropriations. You know how it is."

He didn't wait to see if I knew how it was. For he continued: "So I'll have to move you to a lower deck and give your accommodations to Congressman THOMAS."

I bristled and answered: "Captain, you are not moving me anywhere. Let me tell you something. I come from a town named Lufkin in east Texas. Congressman THOMAS is from our ardent football rival, Nacogdoches, 20 miles away."

And I went on: "Captain, if it ever got back to Lufkin that I moved out for a Nacogdoches boy, king, President, Congressman or what, I could never go back home. So I ain't moving."

The day was saved only when ALBERT had to cancel the trip. Needless to state, I was not that ship captain's favorite after that.

ALBERT THOMAS left many memorable accomplishments and many happy memories. I join a legion of other friends in deepest sympathy to Lera and all the family.

[From the Houston (Tex.) Post, Feb. 16, 1966]

ALBERT THOMAS SERVED ABLY

Few congressional districts in the Nation have been served as ably as Harris County during the long tenure of Representative ALBERT THOMAS. At the time of his death and for many years before, he was a member of the powerful House Appropriations Committee. In this capacity, he had a major part in obtaining for the county such Government installations as the Veterans' Administration Hospital (originally a Navy hospital) and the Manned Spacecraft Center.

If the success of a Congressman is measured by what he does for the people of his district, ALBERT THOMAS was greatly successful. But doing things for Harris County was only the bread-and-butter part of his 29 years in Congress. As chairman of the Appropriations Subcommittee that handled funds allotted to some 40 Government agencies, ranging from the Atomic Energy Commission to the Veterans' Administration, he sought to represent all of the people of the United States in seeing to it that the money was spent wisely.

He was regarded as one of the hardest working Members of the House. He was at his office early every day, and frequently took work home with him at night. When bureau officials seeking money appeared before his subcommittee, they usually found he knew as much about their subject as they did. Within the committee and on the floor of the House, he often voted against administration projects he considered unwise or wasteful.

THOMAS was born in Nacogdoches in 1898. He was graduated from Rice University, served in the Armed Forces during World War I, and received his law degree from the University of Texas Law School. He also attended Harvard University Law School for a time.

He was serving as county attorney at Nacogdoches in 1931 when he was offered a place in the office of the U.S. district attorney here during the Hoover administration. When Douglas W. McGregor became U.S. attorney after the election of President Franklin D. Roosevelt, THOMAS remained in the office as an assistant.

He gained considerable fame in the Federal courts of the district as a prosecutor. To underworld characters he helped convict, he was known as Vinegarroon.

In 1936, the office of Congressman from the Eighth District, which then included all of Harris County, became vacant when Representative Joe Eagle retired to run unsuccessfully for the Senate. THOMAS became one of more than a dozen candidates.

THOMAS and former Mayor Oscar F. Holcombe were in the runoff pri-

mary, and THOMAS won. It was a political upset, and a tribute to the THOMAS smile and handshake.

The county's population was much smaller then than it is now. Television was still to be born, and if a young man in politics wanted votes, he had to get out and meet the voters. THOMAS, by traveling around the county from early morning until late at night, met most of them.

In election years since, he usually won reelection easily.

ALBERT THOMAS learned how the people of this county felt about him November 21, 1963, when some 3,300 attended a banquet in his honor. It was held in the coliseum. Among those who said complimentary things were President John F. Kennedy and then Vice President Lyndon B. Johnson. Mr. Kennedy was killed the next day in Dallas, and ALBERT THOMAS was present in the plane when Mr. Johnson took the oath as President.

He also was honored in 1965 when the Brown Foundation gave $500,000 to Rice University to establish the ALBERT THOMAS chair of political science.

THOMAS' death, although not unexpected, was a shock to all who knew him and loved him. The Post joins many friends throughout the Nation in sympathy for Mrs. Thomas and his daughters. He will be long remembered here and in the Halls of Congress.

[From the News Citizen, Pasadena, Tex.]

THOMAS' DEATH IS "DARK DAY"

One of this area's truly great statesmen was laid to rest Friday.

Congressman ALBERT THOMAS came home to the Houston he loved best and did more for than perhaps any other single man in history.

Although Representative THOMAS did not represent the Pasadena area at the time of his death, his tremendous work was felt here.

He is given credit for bringing the Manned Spacecraft Center to Clear Lake. Had it not been for his work on this project, Pasadena might not be the booming city it is today.

THOMAS had been a Member of Congress since 1937 and had headed powerful appropriations subcommittees since 1949.

He is said to have helped then-Congressman, now President Lyndon B. Johnson acquire much of his political experience and savvy.

THOMAS was a down-to-earth guy who liked to campaign unannounced, shaking hands, seeking the opinions of citizenry, and listening attentively to any thoughts they might have.

He was greatly admired by persons of all political philosophies and parties and seldom had an opponent.

His courage was especially demonstrated when he became one of the few southern Congressmen to vote for the Civil Rights Act and medicare. Although he was considered a liberal, his mind was always open to what he considered best for his populous.

Many Pasadenans remember THOMAS from the days when Harris County had just one congressional district, and he was the Representative.

South Houston Mayor George W. Christy put it well when he called Thomas' death "a dark day for all of Harris County."

[From the Houston (Tex.) Chronicle, Feb. 18, 1966]

Ave Atque Vale, Albert Thomas

This is a sad day for Houston and Harris County.

It is the day on which one of our most distinguished sons, Albert Thomas, for 30 years the Representative in Congress of the Eighth District of Texas, is laid to his final rest.

His loss is hard to accept, even though we had advance warning of it. The state of his health had been precarious for 3 years and more. But he carried on so courageously and so well that when the blow fell none of us was really prepared for it.

During most of his career in Congress Albert Thomas represented all Harris County; in recent years, since the county was divided into two districts, he has represented only the north half. Yet the interests of the entire county remained uppermost in his heart, as is evidenced most dramatically in the fact that the Manned Spacecraft Center, which he did so much to help locate here, is not in his own 8th but in the 22d District.

And it is all of Harris County that mourns him today, along with Texas and the Nation. All Harris County extends its sympathy to the wife and daughters of its veteran Congressman.

Many of the Nation's great came here today for the funeral. Those of his constituents who cannot join them at church service and graveside do so in spirit.

Albert Thomas, hail and farewell.

[KHOU–TC 11 Editorial]

Albert Thomas

A personal memory was jarred back to consciousness yesterday, with news of the death of Congressman Albert Thomas.

It concerned a phone call just last week from Washington. The caller was Galveston Congressman Clark Thompson, but the operator said it was Mr. Thomas.

Mr. Thompson was asked if this happened often. It did, he said, but he wasn't bothered by it—he was flattered.

That brief, matter-of-fact comment comes strongly to mind today, as a quiet, but really unmatched testimonial to Albert Thomas—for nearly 30 years, Houston's leading spokesman in the Nation's Capital. It was a brief, but telling, assessment of the man who deserves much of the credit for making our community what it is today.

We in the news business remember him well, as an unassuming man whose nearest approach to flamboyance was his string tie—a firm and positive person who devoted his life to the community he loved and the Nation he served, going happily into his last term in Congress, knowing that cancer,

which already had brought him pain and misery, quite probably would bring death before the term was out, but choosing, nonetheless, to spend that time in the work few knew or could perform better.

And with these things in mind, we see the meaning clear in President Johnson's brief comment: "He worked hard. He served well. His death leaves a lonely place in the lives of those who knew him best."

Mr. MINSHALL. Mr. Speaker, death has deprived the Congress and the country of a good and wise Member of Congress, a distinguished chairman, and a brave and gallant gentleman.

In the brief year I served under Chairman THOMAS on the Subcommittee on Independent Offices Appropriations, I gained tremendous respect for his awesome knowledge of the operations of the 22 Federal agencies within his subcommittee's purview. He had a computer mind and his memory was uncanny concerning the thousands of employees and billions of dollars involved. The contributions he made to civil aviation and to the space program have made, and shall continue to make, a daily impact on the lives of millions of Americans. Future generations will have much reason to give thanks to the tireless and dedicated work of ALBERT THOMAS.

I shall always remember the generous welcome Chairman THOMAS gave me as a newcomer to his subcommittee last year. He did everything possible to ease my introduction to the complexities of the 22 agencies, each a beehive of problems and personalities. He was gracious and generous in giving every courtesy and help to this Member from across the aisle. He extended the hand of friendship and I was honored to take it. I am grateful that I had the opportunity to serve under this remarkable and brilliant chairman and to have been able to call him my friend. I will miss not only his kindly words and friendly pats on the back but most of all wise counsel and wonderful leadership. We have all lost a real friend.

Mr. THOMPSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the formal remarks, which I shall extend in the Record, are to a large degree repetitious, but I want to give you a little anecdote, a true personal story that takes up a thread that has been woven through all of these eulogies today. It was during World War II, when I was in the Marine Corps, stationed in San Diego, and the Appropriations Committee, the Subcommittee on Naval Affairs, as I recall it, was coming through to look over our establishment and later to make appropriate appropriations.

I was assigned as the escort to the tall Texan, a man whom I knew not very well at that time, but still I knew him. We went around and saw what was going on. I thought I knew what he wanted to look at, and I took him around and showed him. Then came dinnertime, and we assembled in the ballroom in a big hotel. There was the speaker's table, and I went and looked at the name cards, and saw his there. I took him up there and I said, "Your seat is up here," and sat him down. He said, "Where are you going?" I said, "I am going down there." He said, "No; you are going to sit here by me." I said, "ALBERT, I can't. I have to sit down with the troops." And he got up and left that seat and would not return to it. He said, "When my friends don't go first class, I don't, either."

So it was, and I have never forgotten it. I just thought of it this morning, with all of these tributes being paid. He took care of his friends, and he took them all first class or he would not go himself.

Mr. Speaker, the passing of our old friend, ALBERT THOMAS, was a shock although we knew that for a long time he had been battling with one of the cruelest killers of them all—cancer. As much as a year ago, we knew that nothing was keeping him going except his indomitable courage.

Some of us recall how he would come in on the floor of the House, sit down in the back of the Chamber, and call one of us over to sit beside him. He did not want to talk much, but he told me one day that when the pain was particularly intense, he wanted some of his close friends nearby. He fought this pain, which he told me in recent weeks sometimes became so bad that he felt he just could not stand it. But, he did. And, he fought it right down to the last hour with his mind perfectly clear and his courage undaunted.

In the days since his passing, we have become increasingly aware of our loss. We know that no one can ever take his place and only by following closely his example can his successor find a place of his or her own.

Our hearts go out to his beloved Lera and to his two daughters, Anne and "Little" Lera. We share with them the sorrow that must be in their hearts.

Mr. CONTE. Mr. Speaker, I am honored and proud to add my own voice to the chorus of tribute being raised in this Chamber today

in recognition of our late, lamented colleague, the Honorable ALBERT THOMAS, of Texas.

Congressman THOMAS was one of those rare public servants who stood as a giant among his colleagues, while at the same time forgoing the kind of publicity and personal flamboyance that would have made him a more famous man outside this body.

He was known, respected, and loved by all who knew and worked with him, both Democrat and Republican. His efforts in the Congress seldom made headlines for him outside of his native State, although the mark of his activities has had a tremendous impact upon the course of history and current events. He will be missed by a great many more than those in Texas, whom he served so well. Texas and the entire Nation have lost a faithful and beloved public servant.

I am proud to count myself among those who welcomed and profited by his experience and wise counsel. He was a man skilled in his profession and who used those skills with discrimination and unerring judgment. Much of his stature stems from his personal restraint in wielding the power and influence at his command.

Above all, he was a human being of deep understanding and compassion. His high good humor and warm optimism were undimmed even by the persistent and inexorable shadow of death. In his 29 years as a Member of this body, he established new standards for devoted public service, determination, and raw courage.

Among his greatest virtues, to me as a member of the opposition, was that he could rise above partisan dogma when the occasion demanded. He was not a man to carry party above public interest, or beyond personal friendship.

My fondest recollections of our honored colleague are those times when, in less formal surroundings, he would extend a gentle slap on the back and a personal word of encouragement. His life, his career, and in a sense his sad passing, have all been a source of much inspiration for me and, I am sure, for all of us.

I am pleased and proud to extend my personal condolences to the surviving members of his family, and to assure them that a great many willing shoulders share their burden of grief in this hour.

Mr. GEORGE W. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I lost a warm personal friend when ALBERT THOMAS passed. For many years it

was my privilege to serve with him on the Independent Offices Subcommittee of the House Appropriations Committee. He was a great leader and one of the most conscientious men I have ever met. There did not seem to be enough hours in the day for him to accomplish the goal he set at the beginning of the day. He worked long and hard, and there are many of the agencies in our Government that are today accomplishing more and working better just because of the untiring efforts he put forth in committee hearings. He handled his subcommittee's annual appropriation bill on the floor of the House like the old pro he was.

He was ever conscious of the pressing needs of the day and met the challenge with the wisdom of Solomon. ALBERT THOMAS loved his work in Congress, and the people he represented in Texas. No problem was too complex for him to tackle, and those of us who knew him were well aware that he could solve the most complicated ones.

ALBERT THOMAS was a family man. He cherished his lovely wife, Lera, and their two wonderful daughters. His family can take pride in the many accomplishments he attained in his service in Congress. They have my deepest sympathy in their great loss.

Aside from his family and from my own personal sense of loss, I am thinking of the loss that has been suffered by the people he so ably represented in Congress, and of the loss sustained by the State of Texas and the Nation. We shall miss his keen and effective work in Congress.

Mr. Speaker, ALBERT THOMAS had all of the qualifications which I have always felt were necessary for the making of a good public official. He was honest, he was able, and he was courageous.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to say that there comes to my mind one of my favorite poems entitled "The Heart of a Friend."

> The heart of a friend never wonders or doubts no matter
> if years intervene;
> The old faith is there and naught can compare with the
> comfort it gives though unseen;
> Yes, the heart of a friend is the one thing I prize as life
> lengthens and twilight descends;
> It's the last boon I'll ask when I have finished my task that
> I live in the hearts of my friends.

I can assure the loved ones of ALBERT THOMAS that as long as his friends live ALBERT THOMAS will live in their hearts.

Mr. FLYNT. Mr. Speaker, I respectfully pay tribute to the life and character and public service of the Honorable ALBERT THOMAS, late a Representative of Texas. His colleagues from the State of Texas can more effectively and more properly describe the tremendous affection, admiration, and esteem in which he was held by his home people and by his Texas colleagues.

Mr. Speaker, it is indeed true that the Nation, the State of Texas, and especially the Eighth District of Texas, have lost an outstanding Representative.

We who have had the privilege of serving with him in the Congress have lost a wise counselor, and an able colleague, and a good friend. For 12 years prior to the completion of the Rayburn House Office Building, the office of ALBERT THOMAS and my office were located on the same corridor. Because of this happy circumstance I saw ALBERT at least every day during those 12 years. When I came to work discouraged, downhearted, blue, or depressed, simply by meeting him in the hall and having him raise his hand say "Hi, partner," it made it all worth while again.

I am sure that I speak for many of my colleagues when I remember him in that way.

Mr. Speaker, as a member of the Committee on Appropriations he participated in and guided the necessary funding of a multitude of agencies of our Government. Perhaps, more than any single individual he has guided the proper funding of man's exploration in space. He did not confine his activities and the wealth of his ability and his knowledge to one aspect of congressional service. In the spheres in which he was an acknowledged master he was probably the most capable and effective debater that many of us have seen.

When ALBERT THOMAS brought an appropriation bill to the floor of the House few dared to offer amendments thereto. When amendments were offered, few, if any, were adopted. As far as my knowledge goes, I believe only one major amendment was adopted to a bill which he managed, and many of us have reason to believe that he did not seriously object to that amendment.

ALBERT THOMAS was fair, he was honest, and he was courageous in everything that I saw him do during the period that I was privileged to serve with him.

I especially remember with pleasant affection our association to-

gether at the Democratic National Convention in Los Angeles in 1960. I could recount numerous other occasions when my life and its activities have been made more pleasant because of my association with this man whose memory we honor today.

Mrs. Flynt, our daughter, and our two sons join me in extending our heartfelt sympathy to his beloved life companion, and their two devoted daughters.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that somewhere in the Great Beyond ALBERT THOMAS is aware of the love and affection in which we held him in life and of the way that we feel about him in memory.

To where he is in that Great Beyond, I would like to lift my eyes and my voice and say: Good friend, wise counselor, tall Texan, outstanding legislator, and great American, we bid you an affectionate farewell.

Mr. SIKES. Mr. Speaker, this is a sad occasion in the Halls of Congress. Death has claimed an able man—one of the ablest in our midst and one of the most beloved. I speak of ALBERT THOMAS, late a Congressman from the Eighth District of Texas.

ALBERT THOMAS was a veteran legislator—skilled in debate and a master parliamentarian. He was one of the most effective men ever to represent a constituency in Washington. Here was a man from whom it was always possible to learn, a man whose unfailing spirit of dedication to the principles of sound constitutional government was a constant inspiration.

Few men in Congress have been more genuinely respected and loved by his fellow Members. One of the senior Members of the House, he was also the ranking member of the great Committee on Appropriations. His steadying influence in that committee and on the floor was a guiding light which time and again directed the course of legislation into sound channels.

Throughout the course of his long and trying final illness, he exhibited a brand of courage seldom seen. Suffering could not dim his interest in the work of the Congress and in the good of his country. He fought a good fight, and his work lives on. His voice has been stilled but the spirit of leadership which he exhibited will remain as a monument to the name of ALBERT THOMAS. Our Nation and his State have lost a patriot, a leader, a friend.

I join with my colleagues in extending earnest sympathy to Mrs. Thomas and to all the members of the family.

Mr. BOLAND. Mr. Speaker, I join with the great Texas delegation and other Members of this House in this tribute to ALBERT THOMAS.

Nothing that I can say on this occasion can describe the personal grief that I feel at his passing. No words of anyone are needed to highlight his magnificient record in all of the public offices that the people of his community entrusted to him in his beloved State of Texas.

The great and distinguished, brilliant chairman of the full Committee on Appropriations, Mr. Mahon, fellow colleague from Texas and long-time friend of AL THOMAS, said something a moment ago that I think bears special emphasis. He said, "Mr. THOMAS knew how to deal with the executive branch." As chairman of the Independent Offices Subcommittee on Appropriations—of which I am a member—he presided over this tremendously important committee with sheer brilliance, unmatched ability, and courtly and considerate demeanor. He saw agency heads come and go in the years he presided as chairman over this committee. He knew the agencies and their missions better and understood their significance more than the many benchwarmers that passed through these agencies. He was aware of the fantastic power that regulatory agencies could bring to bear on the regulated and he recognized so well the actions of eager beavers who could run rampant with power. As much as anyone I know, he was everlastingly and constantly concerned that the public be protected, its rights guarded, and interests be met by the great regulatory agencies of our Government.

His control of his committee was masterful because he did his work. He knew the subject and he recognized the problems. He was a genius at interrogation and he always succeeded in building a wonderful record for his committee.

In the years he served as chairman of the Independent Offices Subcommittee on Appropriations, the budgets of the various agencies that came before his committee were reduced under his leadership of the committee by some $15 billion.

The fact that he was never overturned on this floor is eloquent testimony to the soundness of his actions.

I know that Houston has lost one of its finest public officials and one of the greatest in the history of that magnificent city.

This Nation has lost a brilliant legislator.

We have lost a good and valued friend.

To Mrs. Thomas, Anne, and Lera, I extend my heartfelt sympathy. What a truly magnificent, majestic woman Mrs. Thomas has been in the long, exciting years of her marriage to AL THOMAS. In the terribly trying days of the past many months, her toil and her sacrifice has been an example to behold.

I know that her great grief is softened by the regard and the esteem in which ALBERT THOMAS is held by all who knew him—the high and the mighty—the rich and the poor—his countless friends in Houston, in Texas, and in the entire Nation.

Mr. POAGE. Mr. Speaker, I would feel entirely remiss were I not to say a word in connection with the passing of my dear friend, ALBERT THOMAS, although I recognize full well that none of us can add anything to the tributes that have been enunciated here today or to the fond recollection of his colleagues.

I became a Member here on January 3, 1937, the 75th Congress, and was assigned a room on the fourth floor of the Old House Office Building. Next door was the then new Representative from Harris County. ALBERT was my first office neighbor. It was the beginning of our friendship, which lasted until he left us.

I have always felt that it was proper to appraise and analyze our friends, and I tried to fairly appraise ALBERT THOMAS. I have tried to apply to him the tests which, it seems to me, we might apply to the ideal Representative.

Of course, any Member of this body to be worthy of membership must be honest. No man ever questioned the honesty of ALBERT THOMAS.

Almost every man to be worthy as a Member must be diligent. He must be a worker to achieve success. There are very few who are so blessed that they can perform the duties of this office without many hours of hard labor. ALBERT was a hard worker, and he did much of his work without publicity. He never spared himself.

Of course, in the final analysis, what everyone wants to know is: Is a Member of Congress efficient? Does he get results?

In the 30 years in which I have served here, no Member has been able to pile up a finer record of results. No Member has been more efficient in his services than ALBERT THOMAS. He was effective by every standard. As has been so well pointed out he was effective for Houston, but he went much further. He was effective on every level. He served his day and generation, and generations yet to come.

Of course, I think that we should question ourselves as to how a man becomes efficient. Obviously, to be an efficient Representative he must be intelligent. Certainly ALBERT THOMAS' intelligence was recognized by all who knew him. His was one of the great outstanding intellects of this House, and he was one of those rare individuals who had native ability and personality to apply it.

For a man to use his intelligence effectively, he must be polite; he must be courteous to his colleagues. ALBERT was always courteous, even courtly, always friendly, always anxious and solicitous on behalf of his colleagues.

Of course, along with that courtesy must go personal strength and bravery. Certainly for the last several years the Members of this House have come to know ALBERT as an outstandingly brave man. He never complained. He never burdened others with his personal problems. He accepted his afflictions and fought his own battles. He would help others but he would not ask their help for himself.

In that connection I think it would be remiss for anyone to overlook the cooperation, the help, and the strength that he received from his own wife and helpmate, our own friend, Lera Thomas, who bore with him through these trying periods, and his two outstanding daughters, who have been so faithful and so helpful. Frances and I want to join with the other thousands of friends all over this country in extending our personal sympathies and best wishes. You have the satisfaction of having known and loved a great husband and father.

We have all felt very keenly the loss, not only of a great legislator and leader, but we have felt very keenly the personal loss of a friend—one with whom we have had long and lovely associations. We will not soon see his equal.

Mr. HARVEY of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I would certainly be

remiss if I did not take this opportunity to pay a word of tribute to and express my appreciation for ALBERT THOMAS. Our country is indeed a better place for the fact that he served in the Congress of the United States. The House of Representatives is likewise a greater body because of his presence here.

It is not only in my own instance that I could give very outstanding tributes, but also as an observer and seeing his personality as it pervaded the House of Representatives. To me, it was an indication of the highest calling that any Member of Congress can achieve, and it is a tribute not only to his own personal integrity but as well to the enhancing of the congressional delegation from Texas, and, indeed, the whole United States.

I certainly want to pay tribute to him not only as a legislator, as a great authority on appropriation matters, but also as a great tower of strength in protecting our country in every way that he had an opportunity to assist. I just hope the House of Representatives will continue to be composed of men of his caliber.

Mr. ROGERS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I never knew a man for whom I had a deeper respect than I did for ALBERT THOMAS. I think he was truly a living example of the gentlemanly qualities that should be a part of all of us. He was a man who was loved by everyone who knew him. I never knew a man who served with him in the Congress who did not look upon ALBERT as a friend and trust him. I think that is one of the greatest tributes. I think ALBERT THOMAS left monuments here in the House of Representatives that will live for many, many years to come.

I know that every one looked forward to seeing ALBERT every day. He was a fellow who dispense good will, a man whom you felt you had the deepest faith and trust in the first time you met him. I hope this country produces many more like him.

I have never known a greater example of true courage, than that displayed by ALBERT.

Jean and the children join me in extending to Lera and to Anne and to "Little Lera" our deepest regrets and our most sincere sympathy. But I think they can have much solace in the fact that the world is a better place because ALBERT THOMAS lived. I know that my life is much richer because I knew him.

Mr. WRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, the passing of our friend and colleague, ALBERT THOMAS, leaves in this Chamber a void which never really can be filled, and in our lives a big and empty place.

Beneath his courtly manner of genteel affability and never-failing courtesy, ALBERT THOMAS concealed the rapier thrust of a brilliant mind. He was a legislator's legislator, a parliamentarian par excellence. He knew every turn in the legislative road.

ALBERT THOMAS was intensely loyal to those whom he served. Because of his vision and skill, his beloved home city of Houston has prospered almost beyond belief. His devoted espousal of the Houston ship channel has built his city into the Nation's third largest port.

Almost everywhere one looks in that booming metropolis one can see monuments to his service. The Manned Space Center is in Houston because of ALBERT THOMAS. The Veterans' Administration cemetery, in whose grassy mall he was buried, is the result of his labors. The magnificent Houston International Airport and the great freeways system testify to his achievements. To a truly unusual degree, ALBERT THOMAS has set in motion the basic stimuli to chain-reactive growth which have sparked the fantastic mushrooming development of the Texas gulf coast.

And yet, ALBERT THOMAS was not provincial. His mind was broad and his vision encompassed the needs of our Nation. For many years, since 1949, the 26 administrative agencies of our Government which received their appropriations from the independent offices appropriation, annually came to him to explain their programs and their needs.

He served the taxpayers of our Nation, and he served them well. His keen perception throughout the years has winnowed the wheat from the chaff, trimmed costly frills, and given to the Nation a stellar example of fiscal integrity.

To those of us who knew him, ALBERT was a constant inspiration during the long months of his painful illness. He never grumbled or complained. There was in his makeup no hint of self-pity. His cheerfulness in face of the stark adversity of health was a great and living sermon in itself. ALBERT THOMAS was a man.

And so, infinitely poorer for his loss but infinitely richer for his having dwelt among us, we think of his family whom he loved and devoutly wish for them the consolation that can come in the knowledge

that there are those who would share their unspeakable grief, and in the surety of his good life and its eternal reward.

Mr. Speaker, I include with my remarks two news articles written about our esteemed colleague soon after his passing.

[From the Star-Telegram]

REPRESENTATIVE ALBERT THOMAS: MODEST BUT POWERFUL

(By John Mort)

WASHINGTON.—Representative ALBERT THOMAS, of Houston, who died Tuesday of cancer, was one of the most powerful Members of the House and also one of the least known outside his district and Congress.

THOMAS, 67, died at his home here after battling cancer for more than 7 years. He had undergone a number of operations during that time.

They were something. The roster reads almost as a list of milestones in the history of the growth of the Southwest's largest city—the city hall, the coliseum, Jeppesen Stadium, the Veterans' Administration hospital, the new Federal building, improvements to the ship channel and port of Houston, and lately, the hallmark of a career, the billion-dollar Manned Spacecraft Center. In all these, the influence of THOMAS was pervading.

His power came from seniority (only 10 Members of the House outranked him), his behind-the-scenes persuasiveness, and his position as chairman of the Independent Offices Appropriations Subcommittee, a group which approves the spending programs of all Government agencies independent of Cabinet departments, and annually produces a bill second in size only to the massive defense appropriation.

Still, THOMAS was relatively unknown, not only nationally but in wide areas of Texas. This was largely of his own doing. Until his last illness, he was always accessible to Houston newsmen. Others, regardless of their eminence, found it virtually impossible to get to see him.

No major law bears his name but his hand was strongly felt in many a legislative battle.

He played a major role, for example, in blocking the funding of the Dallas Federal building during the tenure of Republican Congressman Bruce Alger.

THOMAS concealed behind his carefully cultivated air of southern conservatism a strongly liberal voting record. While he talked enthusiastically about "cutting the fat" from budget requests, he was one of the most generous senior members of the Appropriations Committee.

Long before it became generally practiced in the South, THOMAS campaigned quietly among Houston Negroes, keeping engagements without public announcement and being driven to them by a chauffeur he trusted not to broadcast where he had been. He made a point of contributing to Negro philanthropies and fund-raising projects for Negro churches.

He was born in Nacogdoches and graduated from Rice Institute and the University of Texas Law School. After service in World War I and

a stint as county attorney at Nacogdoches he became assistant to the U.S. district attorney in Houston. Five years later he ran for Congress. His leading opponent was Oscar Holcombe, who was later to serve 11 terms as mayor of Houston.

THOMAS won, 33,866 to 25,021.

He took his seat in the House in January 1937, and was never again to face a tough election battle.

Cancer struck in the late 1950's, and in 1963 THOMAS announced he was too sick to go on. He would retire at the end of his term.

But his constituents would have none of it nor would the then President Kennedy and Vice President Johnson.

THOMAS was elected again.

At a 1963 testimonial dinner in Houston, President Kennedy was the main speaker. He said:

"ALBERT THOMAS is old enough to dream dreams and young enough to see visions."

He also said: "He is one of the most widely influential Members of the House—but one of the least widely known outside of Texas and Washington.

"He has one of the longest records of seniority listed in the Congressional Directory—but one of the shortest, most modest biographies."

Whereas some Congressmen use up more than 50 lines of print in giving their biographies, THOMAS' was only 6 lines—in a sense a line for every 5 years of service to what he called "my people."

Surviving are his wife and two daughters, Mrs. Edward Lasater, of Houston, and Miss Lera Thomas, of Washington.

Funeral services will be at 2 p.m. Friday at the First Methodist Church in Houston with burial in Albert Thomas Memorial Veterans' Administration Cemetery there.

ALBERT THOMAS—SAD-FACED MAN IN THAT PICTURE

(By Seth Kantor)

WASHNGTON.—His colleagues considered him one of the 10 most influential men in Congress, yet it could be a quirk of destiny that makes ALBERT THOMAS recognized generally as "that very sad-faced man in the picture."

"The picture" is that tortured classic, taken in the Presidential plane, Air Force 1, November 22, 1963, as Lyndon B. Johnson was sworn in and John F. Kennedy was aboard in a casket.

Representative ALBERT THOMAS, Democrat, of Texas, was standing at Mr. Johnson's right shoulder. The look on his face told the whole story, preserved for generations of the yet unborn.

Yesterday, in his 30th year in Congress and his name unknown even in great parts of Texas, Representative THOMAS died. As chairman of the House Independent Offices Appropriations Subcommittee, he directly controlled the spending of $15 billion in this year's budget and had a vital say in the appropriations of many billions more.

He was a behind-scenes guy who wore a bow tie, liked to flip his spectacles upon his forehead when not using them, took just enough time for a hurried sandwich for lunch, spurned fancy talk and social events even in the Nation's Capital, and could cut any bureaucrat to ribbons at subcommittee hearings when it came to knowledge of Federal expenditure needs.

Representative THOMAS worked hard at physical exercise, up until 2 years ago, to keep fit for the night-and-day grind of studying he forced on himself.

"I don't think the people of Texas can fully understand," said Representative George H. Mahon, Democrat, of Texas. "I don't think the American people ever can understand what it means to run a subcommittee the way THOMAS had done it.

"It's there that you have to stand on your two feet and hold your ground, or lose support. It has to be your whole life—a job like that."

But even that ALBERT THOMAS made sound simple. He said that "all I've done is follow the principle I learned as an east Texas farm boy. That is: A pound of butter is worth 2 pounds of sand."

Mr. STEED. Mr. Speaker, when we turn our attention to the life and work of our late beloved colleague, Congressman AL THOMAS, of Texas, only words in the superlative seem to suffice in assessing his great work, his great dedication, and his great achievements.

The record he made in Congress is so outstanding that it stands as a shining monument to the man who made it. He not only was endowed with all the attributes of statesmanship and devoted citizenship, he not only had a deep understanding and appreciation of the democratic process of Government, he not only had the ability to place service above self as few men have been able to do, but he could use these gifts and virtues to the end that outstanding achievement equaled his mark as a man and as an American.

With all my colleagues, I join in attesting these fine commendations to the memory of one of our truly great legislators. Our words are frail reward for his great service, but their sincerity bring to his memory a special tribute that few men have received or deserved.

But to me, Mr. Speaker, it is not enough just to review the fine character and record of this man. I think all of us who served with him for many years feel a special loss in his passing. AL THOMAS was more than a warm personal friend to me. He was my tutor and my strong helper in far too many ways to relate here. I was a great benefactor because I knew him and was fortunate to be numbered among his intimates. In the darkest and hardest hours that have been mine as I work in this place, AL THOMAS was so often a strong

right arm to help me and to bolster me when I needed it the most. He won my eternal gratitude.

My State remembers him well. He was good to Oklahoma. We all will miss him. We join with all of you in high praise to the memory of this man.

Mr. McCORMACK. Mr. Speaker, in the passing of our dear friend and late colleague, ALBERT THOMAS, the Congress and the country have sustained a great loss. For ALBERT THOMAS, a great American, was one of the outstanding legislators in the Congress of the United States.

Mr. Speaker, his passing leaves all of us with a profound feeling of sorrow.

ALBERT THOMAS, as our late Chief Executive, President John F. Kennedy, said of him in 1963 in commending ALBERT for his many years of outstanding service, and I quote:

> He has served with distinction and high ability his district, his State, and his country. It would be impossible to exaggerate the importance of the leadership Congressman THOMAS has exerted in the House of Representatives.

Mr. Speaker, while he had been sick and laboring under difficulty and great pain for a long period of time, yet when his passing came it was a stunning blow to his colleagues, his constituents, and his countless friends and admirers throughout the country.

Mr. Speaker, to me his passing is an earthly separation from a dear and valued friend.

It can well be said of ALBERT THOMAS that there has never been a more dedicated Member of the Congress than he. His great ability, his logical and analytical mind, also his amazing capacity as a debator, his qualities of leadership, his dedication to the public service, the deep respect and friendship his colleageus held for him, made our dear friend, ALBERT THOMAS, one of the outstanding Members of this body.

Mr. Speaker, despite his serious illness and constant pain and strain he was undergoing, our dear friend remained in Washington and at his post of duty, under difficulties almost beyond human endurance.

Mr. Speaker, ALBERT THOMAS continued to perform his duties, and always at his side was his sweetheart and wife, Mrs. Thomas.

Mr. Speaker, it was about 10 days before his death that I paid a

visit to him at the U.S. Naval Hospital, and Mrs. Thomas was at his side. As I was leaving my dear friend, he turned to me and said, "Goodby, partner. Mr. Speaker, when you need my vote, let me know."

Mr. Speaker, he was still thinking in terms of service to his district, State, and country, and in terms of performing the duties of his office.

Mr. Speaker, as an individual, his understanding and considerate mind, his acts of help and kindness to his colleagues, his love of his fellow man, his nobility of character, was always an inspiration for all of us to follow. For, it could well be said of ALBERT THOMAS that he was "one of God's noblemen." The intellectual excellence, the firmness of moral purpose, and the nobility of character is an impression that ALBERT THOMAS has made upon his colleagues and upon the great history of this body.

Mr. Speaker, intellectual excellence, firmness of moral purpose, and nobility of character have not vanished from America as long as we can point to the life of ALBERT THOMAS, and as long as others emulate his life. For ALBERT THOMAS was nurtured on American soil, educated in American schools, and spent his life in American public service.

Mrs. McCormack joins with me in extending to Mrs. Thomas and her loved ones our deep sympathy in their great loss and sorrow.

Mr. GERALD R. FORD. Mr. Speaker, nothing could take the place of an all-absorbing purpose in the rich and meaningful life of Congressman ALBERT THOMAS. His goal was the national interest. A man of strong convictions, mental stamina, and physical courage, his strength as a public servant serves as an inspiration to those who follow him.

ALBERT THOMAS was forward looking, cheerful, and optimistic no matter the staggering odds and obstacles that faced him. Day by day he added knowledge, wisdom, experience, and skill. Upon these attributes rested his technical competence, broad intellectual outlook, high sense of humor, understanding, and appreciation of human relationships.

He saw problems not as difficulties. To him they were opportunities for action.

To me he was much more than a colleague in the House of

Representatives. He was a partner with whom I served on the House Committee on Appropriations, and this was among my richest experiences.

The dedication and accomplishments of distinguished public servant ALBERT THOMAS will be long remembered in the Congress, the Nation, and the State of Texas.

Mr. ROGERS of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, ALBERT THOMAS was an old partner to all of the Members. ALBERT THOMAS in a good and friendly way would occupy a seat in the rear of the Chamber, and would ask you to sit beside him. He would immediately ask "How is my old partner today?" Should you tell him of your problems, he would offer you good advice and would do what he could do to help you. He well deserves the honor of being called a partner.

We who knew him loved him. He was kind and understanding. He was a man among men.

I extend my sympathy to the family as I know their loss is great. We will all miss him in the future.

Mr. RHODES of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, every now and then it is the good fortune of each of us to meet a person with whom we instantly feel at home and whose personality is congenial to a person's own outlook. To me, ALBERT THOMAS was one of those rare persons.

He had the rare quality of being a warm, friendly personality, but also a very tough guy when his principles and deep-seated beliefs were challenged. He was possessed of great native intelligence, a fine education, and the desire to work hard. As chairman of the Independent Offices Subcommittee of the Appropriations Committee, he was thoroughly familiar with all the nooks and cranies of this very important and very complex jurisdiction. Many of the department heads who came before this committee later agreed that Mr. THOMAS actually knew more about the workings of their department than they did. In conducting hearings, Mr. THOMAS was always courtly and polite, but he never suffered a fool gladly. Department heads always got along well until they proved beyond a reasonable doubt, by their own testimony, that they either did not know what they were talking about, or were trying to "fool the committee." At that time, they found in very short order that such tactics and such disregard for the

intelligence of Congress did not serve them well in the Independent Offices Subcommittee.

ALBERT THOMAS believed in the House of Representatives, and in its rules. He had great respect for his colleagues, and always showed them the utmost consideration, without regard to their political party. As a member of his subcommittee, I can say truthfully that I have never received anything but kindness at his hands, and the utmost consideration for my own ideas and principles.

In the loss of ALBERT THOMAS, the Congress loses one of its really noble Members. This is a loss which all Members will feel for many years to come. Mrs. Rhodes joins me in expressing our deepest sympathy to the beloved family of ALBERT THOMAS in their bereavement. This expression of sympathy is also extended to the citizens of the State of Texas and to the congressional district which ALBERT THOMAS served so long and so faithfully. May his great soul rest in peace.

Mr. PIRNIE. Mr. Speaker, once again we have bade farewell to one of our colleagues who had impressed his great ability and pleasing personality indelibly upon the memories of us all. During the nearly 30 years he served the Eighth District of Texas, AL THOMAS grew steadily in the stature of public service. He became knowledgeable in the rules of the House, the functions of its committees, and the intricacies of the legislative process. When he came to the floor with appropriation measures he was prepared always to press for their enactment through his mastery of detail and rugged persistence. His gracious exchanges were suavely disarming, smoothing the path in the direction he wished to move.

Yes; the Eighth District has lost an able and admired legislator but we, his colleagues, have lost a good friend. AL THOMAS enjoyed his relationships in the House and always reciprocated any friendly gesture. During the latter days of his life, many of us sensed the fatal nature of his illness and admired the courageous battle AL was waging. He never sought pity, nor did he inflict his suffering upon others. On the contrary, he bowed out with the same gracious manner he had evidenced as he moved among us.

We truly mourn his passing and extend our deepest sympathy to his family. AL THOMAS will not soon be forgotten.

Mr. CLEVELAND. Mr. Speaker, the death of our colleague,

ALBERT THOMAS, was a deep personal blow to me and I wish to take this opportunity to pay tribute to his memory.

Through his long and dedicated service in the House of Representatives, ALBERT THOMAS played a key role in shaping national policies during one of the most turbulent periods of our Nation's history. His death has taken a wise and valued counselor from us.

Mr. THOMAS was unfailingly courteous and helpful to the younger Members regardless of party and he was much respected by them. The courage which he displayed during his long battle against the affliction to which he succumbed inspired the highest admiration.

His portrait has an honored place on my wall. I am proud to have known him and to have had his friendship. He will be greatly missed and long remembered by those who knew him and knew the measure of his contributions to the welfare of our beloved country.

Mr. ULLMAN. Mr. Speaker, ALBERT THOMAS was one of the "giants" of this era in the Congress of the United States. None who served with him will ever forget his soft-spoken persistence, his genial repartee, his gracious consideration of even the newest of his colleagues. He suffered in the past few years more than most men do in a lifetime, yet few but his intimates ever knew it. He thought of others first. His qualities of genuine modesty and self-restraint combined with courage, vision, and dedication to his people and his country are a mark of his true greatness.

I loved ALBERT THOMAS as a friend, as a human being, as an adviser and teacher. He set an example for living that all of us could do well to emulate.

ALBERT THOMAS left his mark upon this time and this era of history. He left his mark particularly in the hearts of all those of us who loved and admired him. To his family and loved ones, I join my colleagues from Texas in offering heartfelt condolences in this hour of great loss.

Mr. WHALLEY. Mr. Speaker, the untimely passing of our distinguished colleague from Texas, the Honorable ALBERT THOMAS, leaves us very sad. We will miss him. Mr. THOMAS was a kind man. He was a hard worker and a fighter for fairness and justice. He was a most able and efficient public servant and during his long

service as a Member of this House, he left an imprint that will not soon be forgotten.

To know him was a privilege. I say to you, Mr. Speaker, this world is better because ALBERT THOMAS lived.

To his devoted wife and family, Mrs. Whalley and I extend our sincere sympathy, and we pray the Lord that Mr. THOMAS will rest in peace and that those who are dear to him may have strength to bear their great loss.

Mr. NATCHER. Mr. Speaker, at a time like this a man discovers that, though his heart be eloquent, his words are paltry. In this time of grief we, in our human, mortal way, seek thoughts that will give us some comfort, thoughts that will soften the terrible blow, that will help us adjust our hearts and minds to the incomprehensible truth that ALBERT THOMAS is gone.

The death of my friend, ALBERT THOMAS, removes from this earth one of Texas' great statesmen and a man recognized throughout this country as a leader of men and a man of public spirit. He was always a perfect gentleman and a considerate man whose exemplary life influenced his own generation and will influence succeeding generations. In every position he held, either private or public, he achieved distinction. He loved people and they in turn loved him. The qualities which endeared ALBERT THOMAS to those who knew him best were his devotion to his family and friends, his rugged integrity, and his unfailing sense of humor and good commonsense. His contributions to better government were many and will long be remembered.

I extend to his lovely wife and children my deepest sympathy in their bereavement.

Mr. DUNCAN of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, others, more eloquent than I and who have known him longer than I have, will eulogize ALBERT THOMAS today. No one, however, will miss him more than I. He befriended me early and often. I wished and wish that I could have "hepped" him as he "hepped" me.

I can only say, "So long, old Pa'dner."

Mr. KORNEGAY. Mr. Speaker, I am both sad and proud to add my humble praise to that of my colleagues for one we honor here today.

I did not have the privilege of knowing ALBERT THOMAS as long, or as well as many of the Members, for I was still in grammar school when he came to the Congress. Yet the brevity of our relationship did not detract from my great admiration for him both as a person and as a skilled practitioner of the legislative arts.

ALBERT THOMAS was to me a master engineer when it came to guiding legislation. I always marveled at the ease with which he handled difficult pieces of legislation. His was a consummate skill.

In spite of his busy schedule, he always had—and took—the time to help his colleagues. This was especially true with respect to younger and newer Members. To us, he was not only fair and sympathetic to our problems, but we always benefited from his wise counsel and sage advice. And, as we benefited, so did our constituents and the Nation.

The Eighth District of Texas has lost a great representative, but their loss is not greater than the Nation's, for he was a noble statesman. He leaves us, in addition to his many accomplishments as a legislator, a wonderful example of courage. ALBERT THOMAS never gave up, nor did he weaken in the face of adversity. Francis Scott Key may have foreseen a Nation of Albert Thomases when he wrote America is the "home of the brave."

I extend my utmost sympathy to his wife and to his two daughters.

Mr. ROGERS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I wish to join the colleagues and many friends of the late Congressman ALBERT THOMAS, of Texas.

Since first coming to the Congress in 1936, ALBERT served his constituents, State, and Nation with the greatest distinction.

I know that the Members of the Texas delegation who have served with ALBERT THOMAS can testify to his achievement and contribution to his State. I know that those who served with him on the House Appropriations Committee can testify to his effectiveness as an advocate for greater economy and efficiency in Federal operations.

May I associate myself with the sympathies and condolences extended to the members of Congressman THOMAS' family. They have reasons to be proud of his record of patriotism and dedication to his country. Congressman ALBERT THOMAS was a great American. His loss will be felt by all.

Mr. MORTON. Mr. Speaker, one of the first Members of Congress whom I came to know when I arrived here in January 1963, was ALBERT THOMAS. He was a longtime friend of my older brother, and because of this friendship, Congressman THOMAS took a special interest in helping me to become acclimated to a new professional life. For the privilege of this personal association I am deeply grateful.

ALBERT THOMAS was truly a Member of Congress in every sense of the word. His service to the people of his district, his service to all Americans, and, more than this, his effective service to the Congress itself, to his colleagues, and to the institution of government, sets the career of ALBERT THOMAS high apart.

No person, even those of just casual acquaintance, can escape a feeling of sorrow and loss as he leaves us. To Mrs. Thomas, his family, and to the people of his district, whose deep feelings for him are most understandable, may I extend heartfelt sympathy.

Mr. BROYHILL of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, this Congress and the Nation mourn the passing of ALBERT THOMAS. His record in the House of Representatives spans three decades of steadfast service to the people of Texas' Eighth Congressional District and America. The void caused by his death will, indeed, be difficult to fill.

When I came as a new Member of Congress in 1962, Congressman THOMAS was one whom I came to respect and admire for his devotion to duty, wise counsel, and genuine friendliness. I feel that his work has given me a greater understanding that democracy is precious not as an inherited privilege but as a trust to be enhanced by continually striving for higher achievement.

In this Chamber his sound reasoning and careful guidance were instrumental in the thorough consideration of legislation reported to us by the Appropriations Subcommittee which he led so well. I am sure each of us will always remember his eloquent presentations here, both in outlining the provisions of bills studied by his subcommittee and in debating the merits of other measures before us.

ALBERT THOMAS was outstanding as a statesman, legislator, counselor, guide, and friend. The loyal spirit in which he served has helped light our way, for the purposes and ideals we honor and cherish have gained new luster by his life. Truly, he set a proud

example for us to emulate, and I am grateful for the privilege of having served with him in the House of Representatives.

Mr. ICHORD. Mr. Speaker, upon this sad occasion hearts are grieved in the memory of our distinguished colleague. The passing of ALBERT THOMAS leaves an irreparable void in this Hall today and in the lives of all who knew him. It is a personal loss to me, but for the fine people he represented, the State of Texas, and the Nation at large, the loss is even greater for we have lost the services of a remarkable man and the resources of a great mind.

These few words of mine and the eloquent and moving tributes paid to our late departed colleague at this ceremony depict, in part, the high esteem in which he was held by all; but the greatest tribute of all—one he was able to enjoy while he lived—was the privilege granted by his people returning him to his seat in Congress for 30 years in recognition of his ability as a legislative technician and his hallmark contributions to Government.

ALBERT THOMAS had the stability of the oak. He had many qualities and he was a competent manager of them. He had lofty purposes in life, and he fulfilled them with the strength of his mind. To ALBERT THOMAS much was given and he gave much more—his accomplishments and achievements will live in his memory and in the hearts of his friends for many decades.

As a lawmaker, as a lawyer, as a veteran, as a husband, and as a father, ALBERT THOMAS personified honor, dedication, devotion, dignity, and selfless charity. His strength was rooted in his firm convictions. He approached his duties and responsibilities with sincere altruistic dedication and served his State and Nation with the same tenacious principles which characterized his life. Rare are the men who possess the values and the standards of the late ALBERT THOMAS. All who were associated with him can be grateful for having had the benefit of the inspiring influence of his personality.

It has been an honor to me to serve in the House of Representatives with my good friend ALBERT THOMAS—a practitioner of democratic ideas and American ideals. Words are insufficient to properly express any tribute or memorial to him. I extend deepest condolences to Mrs. Thomas and the other members of his family and to the people of his State of Texas.

Mr. WHITTEN. Mr. Speaker, I subscribe to every word of the statement made here today by my colleague, the gentleman from Texas, George Mahon, with reference to the service of our late friend, ALBERT THOMAS, of Houston, Tex. ALBERT THOMAS was truly a man of outstanding character, ability, and industry. As a committee chairman who developed in full the facts of the case before him, he was the best. On the floor of this House he was unsurpassed. It has been said that anyone who comes to the Congress must adjust himself to the fact that there is little one man can do to change the course of human events.

Mr. Speaker, ALBERT THOMAS never in 29 years accepted that fact. He was determined and he did influence the course of this House and of this Nation—to its advancement.

It was my personal privilege to serve on an appropriations subcommittee with ALBERT, beginning in January 1943. I liked and respected him then and through all the years since my liking and appreciation for ALBERT as a man and as a colleague has continued to grow.

To his lovely and fine family I extend my deepest sympathy. The Nation has lost a great son and all who knew him have lost a friend.

Mr. SHIPLEY. Mr. Speaker, I knew ALBERT THOMAS from the first week of the 86th Congress. He was one of the first Members I met. A year later I was appointed to his Independent Offices Subcommittee. I know of no one who expressed more interest in a freshman Member than AL THOMAS, nor do I know of anyone who was more sincere than AL in helping a new Member of Congress with the many problems that may arise.

I watched his leadership in his committee and on the floor with great admiration and great respect. The knowledge he possessed regarding the number of agencies he handled on his committee was superb. Without a doubt, AL THOMAS was one of the greatest minds and one of the hardest workers the Congress will see in many, many years. He will be missed personally and the knowledge that he gave all the Members will be missed very much as well. He was truly everyone's friend.

What I am trying to say is that AL THOMAS was truly a gentleman, truly a Christian, and truly a great American.

I will never forget his welcome when you visited him in his office, his committee, or his own home. He would always reach out with both hands and say, "Come in this house and sit down." And I know that when AL THOMAS met St. Peter, St. Peter said to him, with outstretched hand, "Come in this house, AL, and sit down."

I certainly wish the best to Mrs. Thomas and the two daughters, and I know they realize how much AL was loved by everyone.

Mr. COHELAN. Mr. Speaker, the House of Representatives and each one of us has suffered a great loss with the passing of ALBERT THOMAS. He was a great man and a great Member of Congress. He will long be remembered with admiration, respect, and affection by all who had the privilege of serving with him and all those whom he served so ably.

One of the great moments in any year was to watch ALBERT THOMAS manage a bill which had been reported by his subcommittee. His judgment, his grasp of complex and difficult problems, combined with his never failing grace and good humor, marked it as a masterful performance in the best tradition of outstanding leaders of the House.

As a man, ALBERT was in a class by himself. He was a confidant of Speakers and Presidents, yet he was never too busy to extend a friendly hand, or a warm greeting, or a thoughtful word of counsel to any Member, no matter how junior he might be.

It was these and other similar qualities that stamped ALBERT THOMAS as a great man and a great leader of men. The House is saddened by his passing but it is richer for his many years of distinguished service.

Mrs. Cohelan joins me in extending heartfelt condolences to Mrs. Thomas and the other members of his family.

Mr. HALEY. Mr. Speaker, each of us here today realizes that one chair is empty. A chair that was filled so well by our departed friend and colleague, ALBERT THOMAS. We all will miss the warmth of his personality and the sincerity of his friendship.

ALBERT THOMAS was a loyal and faithful servant of the Eighth District of Texas for nearly 40 years. But more than that, during his years in the Congress he became the servant of all Americans. He had a broad and comprehensive knowledge of the needs of our

Nation and he worked with skill and diligence to meet those needs. And so the whole Nation benefited from his service here.

He was one of the most able and conscientious men to ever sit in this House of Representatives. He was an effective legislator. His service on the Appropriations Committee and on the Joint Atomic Energy Committee was distinguished. Those of us who have been concerned over the enormity of the Federal budget and the vastness of the national debt were grateful for the wise and careful attention he gave to all of the appropriation requests that came before his committee. The American people should have felt a little more secure because a man of his ability and conscience was watching over such important matters for them.

Let us hope that those who seek to follow in his footsteps will take inspiration from the record he wrote and from the good life he lived. They could follow no finer example.

To Mrs. Thomas and her daughters, Mrs. Haley and I extend our deepest sympathy.

Mr. HULL. Mr. Speaker, it is with the most profound sorrow that I learned of the passing of an American patriot, the Honorable ALBERT THOMAS. His passing brought to an end a long career of dedicated public service.

I met ALBERT THOMAS when I was a freshman in the 84th Congress, and during the 11 years I have served in the House of Representatives my respect and affection for him have grown with every association.

His death is not only a personal loss for all of us who were privileged to be his colleagues but it is also a loss to the country which he served so well during the many years he represented the Eighth District of Texas in this body.

It has been my good fortune to serve on the Appropriations Committee with Mr. THOMAS and to have a personal insight into his leadership as chairman of the Subcommittee on Independent Offices.

I shall miss ALBERT THOMAS as a personal friend and colleague, but even more the Congress and the Nation will miss his wise counsel and dedicated service.

I extend to his family my heartfelt sympathy. May his wife and daughters be comforted by the knowledge of the affection and respect

in which he was held and that his spirit today rests in a place of greater glory.

Mr. SCHNEEBELI. Mr. Speaker, we are all going to miss our great "Mr. Chairman." This was the title which the lovable gentleman from Texas, ALBERT THOMAS, deservedly won from all of his House friends and colleagues who spend any time at the House gym. He was the unofficial "bossman" and he was so highly respected and dearly loved by all of us whose life he made cheerier with his presence. He was the cheerleader on the sidelines during a hectic paddle-ball game and he was particularly the friend of the new Members in making them feel welcome on their first trip to the gym.

"Mr. Chairman" had that wit and sparkle that made him the center of all the "jockeying" that takes place during this type of athletic activity, and he was always creating a happier environment with his charm. Even during his final days with us, "Mr. Chairman" remained cheerful and optimistic, despite the obvious discomforts and weaknesses which overcame him. We shall never forget this fine Christian gentleman, who certainly was the most popular man in the House of Representatives—and deservedly so.

Mr. SLACK. Mr. Speaker, on this somber occasion, as we meet to pay tribute to our late colleague, the Honorable ALBERT THOMAS, I am reminded of three precepts attributed to Cicero the great Roman orator: "Only the honorable is truly profitable." "True worth is always victorious." "Nothing is expedient but what is right."

These three principles form the foundation for a hundred speeches or more, as Cicero fought in the Roman Senate for preservation of the Republic, and warned repeatedly of the disasters which would accompany the arrival of military dictatorship.

Belief in these same principles characterized the career of our late departed colleague and my good friend, ALBERT THOMAS.

Along with courage beyond measure, the courage of a man who has been permitted to know his fate, but will not bend an inch before he must. The courage of Cicero himself, who faced his assassins on a Roman highway, until all of them but one turned away their faces from the execution for which they had been paid.

Many who have served in this Chamber have earned the right to be called "distinguished" as a descriptive of their service—some of

their keen abilities in debate, some as acknowledged masters of parliamentary maneuver, others whose presence brought a special fund of knowledge to the aid of our deliberation.

Only a very few have been able to earn a special place of distinction because of great natural ability balanced by a co-equal sense of determined humanity—of humanity worn like a comfortable cloak to ward off the cold currents of suspicion and distrust. Only a few can wield great influence without partiality and spread the weight of their authority without creating unfair burdens. But he was one of these.

ALBERT THOMAS was what the poet, Stephen Vincent Benet, would have called a "follower after the Western Star"—never entertaining a doubt of America's greatness; never knowing a moment without the firm belief in the Members of this Congress as the proper custodians of the people's stewardship; never spending an instant without the firm resolve to give of his very best, to the last possible moment, as he shared the troubles and the trials of this stewardship.

We have lost much from his passing but we have gained immeasurably from his presence among us.

His legacy is described in these words Cicero wrote to his own son-in-law:

> There is nothing, absolutely nothing fairer, more beautiful, more to be loved than high courage.

ALBERT THOMAS personified courage when he was with us. It will be our good fortune if his memory leaves in each of us a broader trace of courage in the wake of his departure.

Mr. CEDERBERG. Mr. Speaker, I find it difficult today to fit together words that would form an appropriate tribute to our departed colleague we are eulogizing today. I was closely associated with him in a number of areas and his leaving us, although not wholly unexpected, has left me with a heavy heart.

ALBERT THOMAS, to whom we pay tribute today, was truly a statesman in every sense of the word. During my first term as a Member of this body I was assigned to the House Committee on Appropriations, of which he was a senior member, and almost immediately I was struck by his ability and the firm grasp that he had of matters coming before our committee. He had a keen mind and

was quick to analyze monetary requests presented to the subcommittee over which he presided.

Through observation and through personal experience I learned him to be understanding of the problems of his colleagues and was always kind and courteous in dealing with witnesses coming before his committee.

When he worked he worked hard and when he played he played hard. His heart was deeply imbedded in whatever he was engaged in doing.

I shall never forget his typical, jovial greeting of "Hello, there." His countenance radiated warmth and in spite of the burden he carried in recent months, that warmth did not wane until death removed the last breath from his body.

It was such a man that Henry W. Longfellow described in his "Psalm of Life" when he said:

Lives of great men all remind us
We can make our lives sublime
And, departing, leave behind us
Footprints in the sands of time

When ALBERT THOMAS departed this world he left behind the footprints of a statesman. Footprints identified with integrity, ability, wisdom, devotion, and patriotism to name but a few. Such a man was ALBERT THOMAS.

Mr. TRIMBLE. Mr. Speaker, like all Members of the House of Representatives, I was saddened to learn of the death of ALBERT THOMAS. He was one of the most able of our colleagues—he was able, devoted, and loyal, and he carried his smile right on to the day he died. It is not the same in the Congress without his "Hello, podner." That was his greeting, and it came from his heart.

Mrs. Trimble and I extend to his widow and the entire family our sincere sympathy in this, their hour of sorrow.

Mr. JONES of Alabama. With the death of ALBERT THOMAS, this Nation lost a leader of unquestioned integrity and honor; a man whose primary concern from dawn to dark was to serve the public good.

Over the years since he first came to this Chamber with the 75th Congress, ALBERT THOMAS has left his mark in so many ways. He

has shown us what hard work is, what tenacity is, what vigor and determination is, and he has shown us how to play fair.

The national interest, the national good, was the paramount interest of ALBERT THOMAS. Our defense posture was always critical to him and as a member of the Subcommittee on Defense Appropriations he worked assiduously and with selfless dedication to ever strengthen this Nation's defenses.

He was a farsighted man who firmly pusued the cause of science and scientific development. As chairman of the Independent Offices Subcommittee on Appropriations he played a vital role in the amazing development of our space program through the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. He contributed fully to the development of atomic energy as a member of the Joint Atomic Energy Committee.

Mr. Speaker, ALBERT THOMAS has left many monuments by which we shall remember him. But in the months ahead we shall sorely miss this fine man, this doughty fighter, whenever we gather in council. I shall always miss him as a friend.

Mr. PASSMAN. Mr. Speaker, I wish to join with my colleagues in paying tribute to the memory of our friend, ALBERT THOMAS.

During his many long years of service in this House, AL THOMAS contributed greatly to the welfare of his country. His extensive knowledge of all matters relating to the appropriations procedure, and especially the needs of agencies coming under the appropriations subcommittee of which he was chairman, and his fairness in discharging the duties of his position were unsurpassed. His untiring devotion to duty and his outstanding record of accomplishment are an inspiration to all of us who were privileged to know and serve with him.

The passing of this brave patriot and great American statesman was a deep personal loss to me and a grave loss to this House and to the Nation as a whole.

Mr. Speaker, I extend to Mrs. Thomas and their two daughters, my heartfelt sympathy in the loss of a devoted and faithful husband and father. May they be sustained by the cherished memory of his good, Christian, and useful life.

Mr. KEOGH. Mr. Speaker, with the passing of Representative

ALBERT THOMAS, I have lost a dear and valuable friend, the people of Texas have lost an outstanding representative, and the Nation has lost a true patriot.

Through all the years that I have known him, since January 1937 when he and I took our oaths of office as Members of this House for the first time, the great respect, admiration, and affection that I had for him has continued to grow. His death leaves a void that cannot be filled.

ALBERT THOMAS was one of the kindliest gentlemen that it has ever been my good fortune to meet. His unfailing gentleness and good humor—even in the face of his deep personal physical suffering in the last few years—distinguished him among other men. He was a genuinely modest man, and now that he is no longer with us, none of the sentiments that we voice here today can offend that modesty. Of him it can be said that he was truly one of nature's noblemen.

The public career and the record established by ALBERT THOMAS as a Member of this House is widely known and acclaimed by his colleagues and by the American people far beyond the limits of his congressional district. Particularly in the field of financing the operations of the Government, as a conscientious member of the Committee on Appropriations, his concern for intelligent economy made him an esteemed leader and a genuine representative in the fine sense defined by Edmund Burke nearly 200 years ago. ALBERT THOMAS was the personification of that definition—living in the strictest union, the closest correspondence, and the most unreserved communion with his constitutents. Their views had great weight with him; their opinion high respect, their business unremitted attention. He sacrificed his repose, his pleasures, his satisfactions to theirs; and, above all, ever and in all cases, he preferred their interests to his own. He gave them not only his industry but his fine judgment, which he never sacrificed to satisfy public whims or pressures.

As a fellow member of the bar, I could personally appreciate the gifted legal mind of ALBERT THOMAS. His early training in the law remained a constant asset to him in resolving the intricate and often puzzling problems encountered by him as a lawmaker.

Mr. Speaker, with the breaved family of ALBERT THOMAS, I genuinely share the loss of my dear friend. I extend to them my sincere condolences.

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, the passing of men with the stature of ALBERT THOMAS forces me to assess anew the validity of the old saying that death is the great equalizer.

There are many great, good, and talented men in the world but fate decrees that they expend themselves within a small compass. They go down like November leaves and their influence is limited to a small circle of relatives and associates. Then there are men whose lives and works can be compared with a great tree that long has been a landmark. When it falls, it leaves a great void in the landscape.

ALBERT THOMAS was such a man.

I knew him for 22 years, encountering him daily in possibly every situation which can confront all of us. His unfailing sunny temperament, his apt quips after triumph or success, and his cheerful outlook for what was ahead made many fond of him. His cool, judicial evaluation of national thinking and trends and of proposed legislation won universal respect in the Congress. It was almost public knowledge that for some years he battled a fatal illness, which could have sunk a lesser man into crushing melancholia and despair. ALBERT THOMAS met this awful challenge with the same cool courage and cheerful acceptance of possible defeat in which he would lose his life, with the nobility of mind and heart which will keep him in the special part of the memories of hundreds as a model of how a gallant gentleman should act under impossible odds stacked against him.

He was a model and set standards in and out of the Congress. In all candor, ALBERT THOMAS' career in the House could be a textbook on how to legislate. He brought the scholarship he acquired at Rice University and the Law College of the University of Texas here. His incisive mind probed deeply into proposed bills; it was always evident in committee hearings and it is unanimous that nobody managed legislation on the floor better than he did. Nobody before ALBERT THOMAS was more diligent in his efforts for his Houston area district, its people and interests, and anyone who succeeds him will learn quickly that a giant yardstick will be used to measure him after ALBERT THOMAS. Ever mindful of the people who delegated him to represent them in Washington, his influence on the national commonweal and its future was immense. As a member of the Committee on Appropriations, his decisions will operate for generations

and his acumen in these affairs got ample recognition from the current and previous administrations, which sought his counsel.

Endowed with superlative gifts, ALBERT THOMAS used them to the full to benefit multitudes. The sheer human greatness of the man inspired me and will continue, as it will uncounted others who knew him. His death does not diminish him, but will grow as his contributions to his State and our Nation will be recalled by generations ahead as they will and deserve to be.

My heartfelt sympathy and prayers are with Mrs. Thomas and the Thomas family in their great loss.

Mr. ANDREWS of North Dakota. Mr. Speaker, it is with sadness that I rise here today to pay tribute to our departed colleague, ALBERT THOMAS, Representative from the State of Texas.

Although firm in the application of principle to the conduct of public affairs, ALBERT THOMAS was a kindly man and his friends were many. The very sincere and eloquent tributes being delivered on this floor are the best indication of the character of the man whom we are honoring today.

Although he was on the other side of the political aisle, and one of the ranking members of the committee on which I serve, he was never too busy to offer a piece of sound advice or a word of friendly encouragement.

ALBERT THOMAS will be sorely missed by all of us, but he will hold a special place in the memory of those of us with whom he served.

Mr. KIRWAN. Mr. Speaker, it is very difficult for me to stand before you today to pay my respect to our departed colleague and friend, ALBERT THOMAS.

In this very same room we stood together and took our oath of office, as freshmen Congressmen, to the 75th Congress.

Over these 30 years we have been close personal friends, serving together on the Appropriations Committee. We enjoyed the company of one another and had a sincere friendship.

ALBERT THOMAS was a most devoted man—to his country, to his loved ones, and to his friends. No matter what his suffering might be—and we all know it was tremendous and trying—he had a smile on his face, a hearty handclasp, and a pleasant greeting.

The memory of his vibrant personality, his great courage, and affection for his fellowman will remain with us forever.

To his good wife and family I extend my deepest heartfelt sympathy in these sad and troubled hours.

Mr. ROBERTS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my sympathy to the family and to pay tribute to my friend, ALBERT THOMAS.

It was my pleasure to know him when I first came to Washington as a secretary on the staff of Speaker Sam Rayburn. Even then he had time to counsel with me and help me.

When I came to Congress as a Member of this House, ALBERT THOMAS again became my counselor. Whenever I had a problem that was beyond my ability to solve, I went to ALBERT THOMAS. Never once did he fail to find the proper answer.

Another great statesman has gone to his reward. He will be missed not only by his lovely family, but by his district, State, and Nation, as well. No man has left a greater impact on his fellow men.

Mr. CABELL. I rise to join with my colleagues in expressing sympathy to the family of ALBERT THOMAS in their loss and to the loss suffered by his district and by his Nation.

I did not have the privilege of knowing ALBERT THOMAS personally, nor to serve with him as a colleague in this body, until the inauguration of the 89th Congress.

But I soon learned that this was a man of great wisdom, a legislator of untold capacity to accomplish his task, and a man of dedication not only to his district but to his Nation.

And so, I join not only in expressing our sympathy to his family in the loss of a husband and father, but I join the people of our Nation in mourning the loss of a great citizen, an outstanding patriot, and an able and dedicated Member of this body.

Mr. PICKLE. Mr. Speaker, perhaps the best test of a successful life is the contribution one makes to those about him. By that measurement, ALBERT THOMAS lived one of the most successful lives in this century. As a relatively new Member of the Congress, I can vouchsafe that ALBERT THOMAS has helped me and the people of my district just as he has helped thousands of people over the years.

I have gone to him for counsel, I have listened to his good advice, and I have profited by the wisdom and experience of this great law-

maker. And when I appealed to him for help, in every instance, he delivered with characteristic swiftness and effectiveness. For example, in the city of Brenham, Tex., today there stands a remodeled and almost new Federal building which was made possible largely because of the direct assistance given to me by ALBERT THOMAS, working, of course, with our excellent GSA offices. This little building is of great help to the people of Washington County and a six-county area surrounding Brenham. It was ALBERT THOMAS who realized that this could be a service of our Government to smaller communities, and he personally cleared the pathway for its accomplishment. For years, this one project will help countless thousands of people—and you can multiply this example, yea, a thousand times more.

A few years ago, it was my privilege to help direct a reunion of those men at the University of Texas who lived in Little Campus Dormitory. This was a dormitory of poor boys, and it was a place where ALBERT THOMAS lived. All his life, he has worked his way up from his farm home in east Texas to one of the most powerful positions in congressional history. If you could characterize ALBERT THOMAS in any best way, I think it would be to say that he has been a fighter for little people—little people in all walks of life. His voting record and his accomplishments in the Congress stand as undeniable testimony that his interests always were with the little folks—the working man and woman, whose cause he espoused and whose welfare he improved.

And I think it would be remiss today if we did not recall the great pleasure ALBERT THOMAS brought to so many lives here—both here on the floor and in the Capitol environment. His customary greeting of "Podner" rings in every Member's ear even today and will echo always down the corridors of our National Capitol. Last year this body officially dedicated the House gymnasium to Mr. ALBERT THOMAS, and it is known today as the Thomas gymnasium where his magnificent painting hangs extending a friendly greeting to every Member of this body who goes to that gym in an effort to maintain physical fitness. Dedicated to public interest, intensively hardworking, competent, courteous, and courageous, ALBERT THOMAS was a firm believer in reserving some portion of your day to keeping the body strong and alert. And perhaps in this place, ALBERT THOMAS

found as much personal joy in visiting—relaxed and profitably—with his fellow Members. Always he greeted us with "My Podners—and what are the brothers doing today?" Here, perhaps, we knew him best and loved him best; and here, in turn, he reciprocated with his goodness and his wisdom and his helpfulness. As long as there will be a Congress, there will hang this friendly portrait of this warm and magnificent man, who will always be remembered as saying to us: "And what are the brothers doing today?"

Mr. Speaker, the brothers—his brothers—are doing fine today because men like ALBERT THOMAS have made it so.

Mr. WHITE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I regard myself as being fortunate to have numbered Congressman THOMAS as one of my friends.

He was always courteous and helpful to me. This courageous Texan was in himself a source of pride. In a State that places high premium on bravery, whose people throughout their history surmounted obstacles and triumphed in spirit, ALBERT THOMAS in his last uncomplaining, valiant battle does honor to this tradition. He was a tall Texan in every sense.

In his years in Congress, as now I read of his history, he attained great prominence and importance in this same quiet way, as a dedicated individual, as an American who has far-reaching impact on American legislation and progress. No one can deny the expertness of his representation of his district. His accomplishments for his State and district are a model worthy to be studied by all Congressmen, present and aspiring.

His presence will be missed in many subtle ways—his example will be carried beyond by those who knew him, and read of him. This is a part of his legacy to his fellow Americans.

Mr. POOL. Mr. Speaker, we come this way only once. ALBERT THOMAS has come this way and left his mark.

We are going to miss ALBERT THOMAS at the daily Texas luncheon around the table. Here he did his best work. When tempers flared, ALBERT THOMAS extended a cool hand and settled many problems. His sense of humor stood him in good stead.

Everyone knows of his public floor works in the House. His was a logical and courageous performance on every occasion when he took the floor.

Texas is going to miss him, Houston is going to miss him, and America will always miss this great patriotic American. My sympathy to Lera and ALBERT's two children in their great loss.

Mr. YOUNG. Mr. Speaker, a partial chronicle of the greatness of ALBERT THOMAS would beg of this body much more time than could possibly be available. Suffice it to say, this great Congressman was truly an outstanding man representing an outstanding district in an era of unprecedented achievement. His district, his State, and his Nation is immeasurably the better for the service which he has so energetically and ably rendered in this House. As a man of great character and an outstanding American, Congressman THOMAS has set an example for this body that will not soon be equaled. His tenacity, his dedication, and his determination have been a source of inspiration to us all.

To his lovely family we extend our most heartfelt condolences. No words can replace a loved one, and are slight salve to the hurt of the loss. But all should remember that the greatness of ALBERT THOMAS will long survive him, Mr. Speaker, and take solace in the fact that this world is much the better for his having lived. This, indeed, is the richest legacy that any of us could hope to leave.

Mr. BECKWORTH. Mr. Speaker, Representative ALBERT THOMAS grew up at Nacogdoches, Tex., some 20 miles from the line of the Third Congressional District which I have had the honor to represent for 24 years. I knew him well and knew much about him and his wonderful family through mutual friends. All through his life his record has been outstanding. Those who knew him as a student, as a boy and young man working in a store, and as a young county attorney had the greatest affection for him just as we Members here have had the greatest of affection for him. All along the way he did outstanding jobs of work.

ALBERT was honest, able, and fearless. He was a friendly person and a helpful friend. The effectiveness of ALBERT as a legislator was truly outstanding.

To his wife Lera and his two daughters and all the family I extend my sincere sympathy.

We forever shall miss our beloved friend and colleague, Representative ALBERT THOMAS.

Mr. PURCELL. Mr. Speaker, it was with deep sorrow and a real sense of loss that we received the news of the death of one of our most beloved and respected colleagues, the Honorable ALBERT THOMAS.

I join my colleagues in paying tribute to the dedicated service and the courage of ALBERT THOMAS. I join also with the citizens of our entire Nation in offering our sincere and heartfelt sympathy to Mrs. Thomas and the family.

With unsurpassed courage our colleague labored in the service of his country, knowing full well that the pain which constantly racked his body would eventually bring his life to an end.

He worked without thought of self. He gave freely of his energy, both physical and mental, with an unselfish dedication which should be a shining example for all public servants and all Americans.

We could talk for hours about the many contributions he has made to his State and Nation. But at this moment, the moment we all knew was to come, all we feel can best be stated by simply saying we loved him, we will miss him, and the country he served so well will miss him.

Mr. BURLESON. Mr. Speaker, from the words of others who have spoken on this occasion, eulogizing our late and beloved friend and colleague, ALBERT THOMAS, it is obvious that all of us find it difficult to realize that he is no longer with us. I think one reason for it is because of the closeness and intimacy which he had with the House of Representatives as an institution. The influence of his warm personality will remain among us as long as those of us who knew him will remain Members of this body.

As has been mentioned by many, ALBERT THOMAS was a most unusual individual. He had his own inimitable way, with which all of us are familiar. As we all know, he was a most unassuming man, and yet we all know what a tremendous influence he exercised among us. When ALBERT THOMAS spoke on this floor, everyone listened, and everyone knew that they listened to authoritative words.

No man can ever be missed more than ALBERT THOMAS. He was one of the richest men I ever knew by possessing the high esteem, trust, and affection of so many people, and particularly those who were closest to him in matters both personal and official.

Mr. Speaker, I join with you and our colleagues in expressing our

sympathy and condolence to Mrs. Thomas and her two lovely daughters, Anne and Lera.

Mr. BROOKS. Mr. Speaker, from private in World War I, to chairman of the Independent Offices Appropriations Committee, ALBERT THOMAS served with the highest distinction and dedication his Nation, Texas, and Houston.

With the kindness of a papa bear who wanted his friends to survive in the congressional jungle, he endeared himself to hundreds of Members of Congress from both parties from throughout the United States. His firm stride, warm smile, and magnificent sense of humor were overshadowed only by his rare capacity and tremendous knowledge as a legislator, committee chairman, floor parliamentarian, and analyst of the science of government—politics.

Congress, the United States, Texas, and certainly his hometown, Houston, are all significantly improved because of ALBERT THOMAS. His friends and family will miss him and treasure forever the memory of that friendship.

Mr. EVERETT. Mr. Speaker, I wish to concur in everything that has been said in behalf of our late colleague, ALBERT THOMAS.

Eight years ago when I came to this body he was most kind and considerate to me in every way. With our offices right across the hall from each other, on major problems I would talk to him and counsel with him as to what action to take. He was most thoughtful and helpful to me which I appreciate more than words can express. We shall all miss him.

To Mrs. Thomas and the family I extend my deepest sympathy in his passing.

Mr. MURPHY of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I was filled with sadness when I learned of the death of my very dear friend, ALBERT THOMAS, who represented the Eighth Congressional District of Texas since 1937.

Mr. THOMAS was a statesman of the highest order. He was devoted and attached to his work and gave generously of his great gifts and talents which was displayed by his chairmanship of the Subcommittee on Independent Offices of the House Appropriations Committee.

Congressman THOMAS left many indelible marks on the institutions

of our Nation and those of us who continue to serve in the House will do well to heed these marks and devote ourselves to duty as did our late distinguished colleague. I had personal respect, admiration, and affection for this great man.

To his loving family to whom he was so completely devoted, I extend my humble prayers and most heartfelt sympathy in their deep and most sorrowful bereavement.

Mr. HAGEN of California. Mr. Speaker, the Nation and particularly the Congress, has suffered a great loss by reason of the death of ALBERT THOMAS.

He was a fiscal conservative with much influence on the subject of appropriations. With such a viewpoint he insisted that each dollar of Government expenditure meet a rigid test of cost-benefit ratio. At the same time he was not unwilling, whenever this test was met, to approve Government activity which would benefit the Nation or assist groups of our citizens who were in need of Government assistance.

In other words, he was a man of both sound judgment and compassion. To these capabilities and attitudes he added the ability of able advocacy. In my judgment he was the best debater in the House of Representatives. His presentations were convincing because they were knowledgeable, interesting, and informative.

ALBERT earned not only the respect but also the affection of his colleagues. I regard him as one of the best friends I have made in Washington.

This feeling comes from his friendly demeanor, his consideration for the progress of new Members, his code of honor which extended to all his relations with his colleagues.

We will all miss ALBERT and extend our heartfelt sympathy to his wonderful family.

Mr. LIPSCOMB. Mr. Speaker, we have lost a friend and an outstanding Member of the House of Representatives in the passing of our former colleague, Representative ALBERT THOMAS, of Texas.

It was my privilege to serve with Representative THOMAS on the House Appropriations Committee for a number of years. I respected very much his ability and fairness and his dedication to the principle of maintaining sound fiscal policies.

Congressman THOMAS during his years in public service made

many fine contributions to his State and Nation. He will be very much missed

I join in extending condolences to Mrs. Thomas and their family.

Mr. ZABLOCKI. Mr. Speaker, I join with my colleagues in expressing my sorrow and sense of loss at the passing of our esteemed colleague from Texas, the Honorable ALBERT THOMAS.

It was a distinct privilege to have served with him these many years in the House of Representatives. A man of noble character and deep convictions, he served his district, his home State of Texas, and our Nation with ability and distinction.

Congressman THOMAS was a man who knew the meaning of responsibility. As the chairman of the Subcommittee on Independent Offices Appropriations he was always conscious of his obligation to the American taxpayers. No budget, therefore, went through his subcommittee without receiving his most careful scrutiny.

His eye was always quick to see the fat and waste in an appropriation request and his hand was equally swift to cut it away, thereby saving millions of dollars for the American taxpayers.

How well I remember the many times he offered his advice to me on legislative matters. From his vast store of knowledge about the Government, he drew words of prudence and wisdom.

How well, too, I recall a time several years ago when we two were working together to prevent a legislative maneuver, initiated in the other body, which would have cast disrepute on previous House action and would have cost the U.S. Treasury millions of dollars of claims payments.

Although the pressures were heavy, ALBERT THOMAS stood firm and steadfast. Because of his efforts, the challenge was turned back and an unwise proposal was prevented from becoming law.

Today, remembering that instance and many other times, it becomes all the more clear how much ALBERT THOMAS will be missed here.

Above and beyond his counsel on legislative matters, Congressman THOMAS provided us all with good advice on physical fitness. I well recall his many admonitions to me to keep in shape by using the facilities of the House gymnasium.

Although I did not heed his words before, it is my intention to do so in the future.

Mr. Speaker, the passing of ALBERT THOMAS has inflicted a heavy loss upon his family and his many friends in Texas and throughout the United States.

Congressman THOMAS was a credit to this body and to our country. He served his God through his family and his work, and his fellow men through his legislative and personal endeavors. He has left a record of achievement in the Congress that few have equaled.

My wife joins me in expressing deep sympathy to his family. May they derive some consolation in the thought that we all share in their grief.

Mr. O'HARA of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, for 29 years the Honorable ALBERT THOMAS was a Member of this body and was in the 2d month of the 30th year of his tenure here when death came to him. Relatively few Members in the history of this body had served in 15 consecutive Congresses and none had served with greater distinction and was more firmly imbedded in the hearts of his colleagues. I first came within the radiant presence of AL THOMAS more than 16 years ago and after each meeting with him, even though only to pass the time of day, I left him with the cheering sense that the world in which we live is a world of sunshine and good will. My grief at his passing is coupled with a deep sense of personal loss. He has left with us a pattern of unquestioning acceptance and of sublime courage that will be a strength when pain and failing health comes our way. I never heard from AL THOMAS one word of complaint and when the facility of his body was bravely holding on to the flicker of life, the smile on his face denied his pain and affirmed his faith and his acceptance.

No Member of the House ever did more for his district. No Member ever served his State and his Nation with greater fidelity and dedication. No Member on departing the sphere of worldly activities ever left his colleagues with a keener sense of personal loss.

To his wife, his daughters, and the other members of his family go my warmest sympathy.

Mr. WYDLER. Mr. Speaker, the passing of my colleague, ALBERT THOMAS, was a bitter and sad piece of news to me.

In my congressional office there is only one picture of a fellow Congressman and that is of ALBERT THOMAS. It is there not because I knew him so well but because I liked him so much.

AL THOMAS was not of my political party, not of my age or generation, not of my State or region. He was a friendly guide to one new in the Halls of Congress.

He was your friend. You always knew it.

Mr. EVINS of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, this Congress and this Nation suffered an incalculable loss on the day of the passing of that great American, our beloved colleague, Hon. ALBERT THOMAS, of Texas.

Permit me to take this means of joining with his many friends in paying a brief but sincere tribute to his memory and to his life of selfless and dedicated service to our country.

We are indeed saddened by the realization that ALBERT THOMAS is gone—never to return to the House—never to be with us again in the Independent Offices Subcommittee on Appropriations or in the Congress.

It is my firm conviction that there has never been a greater chairman of the Independent Offices Subcommittee than ALBERT THOMAS.

Following the sad announcement of his passing, the subcommittee suspended hearings and tributes were paid to our late chairman in his subcommittee.

No one knew more than the members of the Subcommittee on Independent Offices Appropriations how hard ALBERT THOMAS worked or how dedicated and effective he was in furthering the best interests of this Nation.

My admiration and affection for ALBERT THOMAS were enduring and abiding. He was beloved. I shall always cherish the memory of my relationship with this great man and great teacher—one of the great men of our time.

ALBERT THOMAS was dedicated to the Congress, to his district, to his beloved State of Texas, and to our country. America will bear the imprint of the creativity and imagination of ALBERT THOMAS for generations to come as the work he did here continues to unfold in growth and progress. Our children and our children's children will live in a better America because of the foresight and wisdom of ALBERT THOMAS.

His grasp of complex and difficult problems was remarkable and his judgment was sound. He will long be remembered for his vision and

initiative in the fields of space and science and technology—and in other areas of growth and progress.

ALBERT THOMAS was one of the first to visualize the importance of space exploration and the technological byproducts that such exploration has developed—and will continue to develop.

He was a member of the Joint Atomic Energy Committee and played a crucial role in the development of atomic energy for peaceful purposes and for defense.

He was a member of the Subcommittee on Defense Appropriations and took a consistent and strong position for a powerful defense posture for our country, for great national strength, for an America more powerful than any nation in history.

The unselfish dedication of ALBERT THOMAS to the national interest will echo down the corridors of history as the United States meets the challenges at home and abroad which he anticipated.

It was my great honor to serve with ALBERT THOMAS on the Subcommittee on Independent Offices Appropriations for more than a decade.

ALBERT THOMAS saw this committee as an instrument of service and progress—an instrument that touched the lives of almost every American through the independent agencies our committee funded. ALBERT THOMAS realized this and it gave him vision and dedication—and a will to create a greater America.

But, in addition to his great record of public service and his devotion to the national interest, ALBERT THOMAS was a warm human being. He had a great capacity for friendship—I was his close friend. Working with him, I came to know him well. He was not only a great man but a good man—a man of concern and compassion.

As a member of the funeral committee appointed by Speaker McCormack, I attended the services for our late colleague in his beloved Houston, among his host of friends and the people he represented in the Congress.

The church was overflowing and there were crowds outside. The love felt for this great man could be sensed in the attitude and respect of this multitude of his friends and his people who honored him by electing him to the Congress.

ALBERT THOMAS was a man of great courage. He fought the fight for life with a smile on his face and a ready greeting for his friends, even as pain wracked his body.

As his successor as chairman of the Subcommittee on Independent Offices Appropriations, I know more than anyone that it will be most difficult to follow in his footsteps. It will be a tremendous challenge. There was, and could be, only one ALBERT THOMAS.

This man of high ideals and high principle will bear history's mark of greatness. It is because of men like ALBERT THOMAS that his beloved country stands strong among nations.

And so, Mr. Speaker, we are saddened by his passing. We are shocked and shaken by the departure of this wonderful man, good friend and statesman.

This Congress and the country mourn the passing of this great and good man from Texas. I extend my deepest sympathy to Mrs. Thomas, to his two lovely daughters, and to the other members of his family in their bereavement.

Mr. HALPERN. It is with a deep feeling of personal grief that I address the House on this occasion, in memory of our late good friend and colleague, the Honorable ALBERT THOMAS, formerly of the Texas Eighth District. A Member of this House for some 30 years, ALBERT THOMAS has passed on, leaving behind a record long to be remembered, long to be admired.

For almost 15 years he served as chairman of the Independent Offices Subcommittee of the Appropriations Committee, in which capacity he oversaw the policies and considered the budget requests of more than a score of Federal agencies. In this role he won the respect of everyone concerned, displaying as he did a liberal attitude coupled with a judicious nature, and a strong interest in detail. Until reorganization of the Appropriations Committee's subcommittee structure, in 1964, ALBERT THOMAS also held the chairmanship of a special subcommittee with jurisdiction over supplemental appropriations. In the closing phase of his life he was recognized on every hand, as a past master in the field of Federal appropriations.

ALBERT THOMAS was born in Nacogdoches, Tex., in 1898, attended public schools there, and entered Rice Institute just prior to American entrance into World War I. When the fighting started he obtained a commission in the Army and subsequently served with distinction.

Following the war he resumed his studies, graduating Texas Law School in 1926.

Returning to Nacogdoches, he was elected and reelected to the office of district attorney before being appointed assistant U.S. attorney for the southern district of Texas, in 1930. Six years later he was nominated for Representative from the Texas Eighth District. Successful in this his first congressional contest, he proceeded to instantly establish himself as a persuasive leader in Congress, and thereafter was reelected until the time of his death.

The diverse interests of ALBERT THOMAS were reflected in his varied congressional responsibilities. A scholar of the space age, he was appointed a member of the Joint House and Senate Committee on Atomic Energy. A zealous patriot, he served for a time, during the 1940's, as chairman of the House Un-American Activities Committee. At the close of World War II he recommended that all U.S. patents dealing with the atomic bomb be impounded to prevent a raid by the Russians on American industrial and military knowledge through the purchase of descriptions of such patents.

President Johnson, a good friend of ALBERT THOMAS, praised him for "devotion to the people he served and loyalty to his friends," declaring also that "he worked hard, and he served well."

Indeed, there are many able men and women in Washington, deeply concerned in the fate of the Union. But none exceeded ALBERT THOMAS in this regard and few exceeded him in any regard. He was, beyond question, a Congressman to remember, and one whom I shall dearly miss.

Mr. DERWINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I join the Members of the House in paying my respects to our late beloved colleague, ALBERT THOMAS. He has been properly lauded as a most effective legislator, and as such his achievements will go down in history.

However, he was to all the Members of the House an extremely good friend and most gracious colleague, and we all appreciated his great human qualities. He served long and honorably in the House and was greatly responsible for the continued effectiveness of the legislative branch of Government during the trials and tribulations which faced the Nation during his 30 years of service. Men such as ALBERT THOMAS, by their achievements and by the leader-

ship that they provide, continue to maintain the Congress of the United States as the finest legislative body on earth.

Mrs. Derwinski joins me in extending to Mrs. Thomas and her family our deepest sympathy.

Mr. FASCELL. Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues today in the tribute paid to the memory of one of the most distinguished men to have served in the House of Representatives of the United States, ALBERT THOMAS, of Texas.

The eulogies are many; they are warm and personal; they detail the life of full achievement; and they paint with vivid color and clarity the genuine character and characteristics of a man who loved his fellow man. All that has been said and will be said attests that these tributes are well merited. Otherwise they would not have been spoken in the manner in which they have.

To the deep blue of God's domain from whence he came, ALBERT THOMAS has now returned. During his travels through the ocean of life, the waves of his personality and achievements have inspired and been beneficial to all whom he encountered. I was one of those fortunate enough to be within the close periphery of ALBERT THOMAS as he went through life. He advised me, led me, and taught me as he did so many others. I still feel the warm glow of his infectious amiability.

On this Hill, ALBERT THOMAS had two loves—the House of Representatives and the gymnasium. On both arenas ALBERT was always the competitor and a gentleman. He taught me and many others here the most important aspects of the game of life, politics, and paddle ball. After having known ALBERT THOMAS for 11 years, I am a better man for having rubbed shoulders with him on all three fields.

I join in the well-earned accolades to ALBERT THOMAS' genius of achievement as a statesman in the House he loved so well and the dedicated and consecrated representation to the people of his district and to the Nation. I share with pride the knowledge of his indestructible courage as he faced the pain and death of cancer. And I shall never forget his interest in me as a fellow servant of the people and as an individual human being.

I can think of no greater objective in life for myself and all others

than the life of ALBERT THOMAS as he lived it and the benefit he gave to all those who encountered it.

ALBERT THOMAS was and is positive, not negative, and the current generated from his life will flow forever.

My deepest sympathies to his beloved wife and daughters.

Mr. TEAGUE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I was in Tokyo, Japan, on Tuesday, February 15, and awoke in my hotel room at 5:30 a.m. and turned on my radio. The first words I heard were that my good friend and colleague, ALBERT THOMAS, had passed away. Of course I was well aware of the disease which finally took his life, but as is always the case with family and friends, death is such a shock.

ALBERT was a most unforgettable character and was the type person who goes about enriching the lives of all those who had the privilege of knowing him. He was never without a smile, never complained of his own personal discomfort, and always had a happy and hearty "Hi podnuh" for everyone together with the ever-familiar wave of his hand.

His service in the House of Representatives spans three decades in which much important legislation was written, and in which much history was made. It is marked with the same characteristic of no thoughts for himself, but always for his fellow man, and his welfare. The people he represented saluted this characteristic by returning him 15 times to this great body.

ALBERT THOMAS' position on the Appropriations Committee brought him into daily contact with officials of the various independent offices of our Government. His knowledge of fiscal affairs and budgetary procedures was uncanny. He was a shrewd inquisitor of witnesses who appeared before his committee and yet was respected by all.

My family joins with his in mourning the loss of a great statesman who served his Nation well.

Mr. ROSTENKOWSKI. Mr. Speaker, I wish to join with my other colleagues in expressing deep sorrow over the death of a good friend and colleague, ALBERT THOMAS, of Texas. Not too many of us will have the privilege of serving 30 years in this Chamber, so one that does must be an outstanding public servant for he has accepted the responsibilities entrusted to him and has performed his

duties beyond what could be expected to gain the trust and confidence of those he represents.

ALBERT THOMAS was a remarkable gentleman. He was devoted to his country, sound in his ideals, and friendly toward his fellow man. He was a leader that gained the respect of all who came in contact with him. It goes without saying that he will be missed, not only by his family, but by all of us here, in this House, who were privileged to work with him and experience a lesson of statesmanship.

Although his warm and cheerful face will no longer radiate these Halls of Congress, his memory will be everlasting and I am certain that we will find it to be a comfort for any one that has made his acquaintance, I am sure, has experienced a feeling of confidence instilled by his wonderful virtues.

To his family I extend my heartfelt sympathy.

Mr. CAHILL. Mr. Speaker, I was saddened, as was every other Member of this House, by the death of the beloved gentleman from Texas, ALBERT THOMAS. No one in the House of Representatives in my opinion, had more friends than Congressman THOMAS.

I can recall my first meeting with Mr. THOMAS. It was in the gymnasium. I was a new Member, and he was then, as he was at the time of his death, one of the most important and loved Members of the House. The warmth of his greeting and the sincerity of his interest was indeed overwhelming. From the moment of our first meeting, I felt an attachment and a friendship for ALBERT THOMAS. From casual friends, that first meeting blossomed into a real and warm friendship and I can recall with fond memories my personal meetings and discussions with ALBERT THOMAS, all of which have been tremendously helpful to me in many ways.

ALBERT THOMAS was many things. He was a great patriot, a great son of Texas, a distinguished chairman of one of our most important subcommittees, a conscientious Congressman, a devoted family man, and an outstanding American. I think, however, if I were to be asked to describe ALBERT THOMAS in one word, that word would have to be "gentleman" because in the true sense of the word ALBERT THOMAS was indeed a real gentleman, always courteous regardless of the occasion, always kind regardless of the circumstances or the individual involved, always a gentleman even with his most avowed adversary. He carried himself at all times with

great dignity and was indeed the symbol for all who met him not only of a great American but of a great gentleman.

It will be a long time before the House of Representatives, or indeed the United States of America, produces another ALBERT THOMAS.

Mrs. Cahill joins me in extending to his devoted wife and his wonderful family our sincere sympathy in their hour of sorrow.

Mr. WHITENER. Mr. Speaker, I join the gentleman from Texas [Mr. Patman] and our other colleagues in taking note of the unfortunate passing of our late friend, Congressman ALBERT THOMAS, of Texas.

When I first came to the Congress in 1957 one of the most cordial receptions that I received was from our departed friend. Through the years that followed our friendship became closer. This friendship was one of the rich experiences that I have had as a Member of the House of Representatives.

No man has ever served his district, State, and Nation with greater ability than did ALBERT THOMAS. His ability was frequently displayed on the floor of the House as he handled some of the most difficult legislation coming from the Appropriations Committee. His affability on the floor with all of his colleagues, regardless of their point of view on the particular legislation, was a most effective instrument in gaining support of his views by his colleagues. His gentlemanly attitude at all times was an attribute to which we may all well aspire.

I shall miss ALBERT THOMAS and his glowing personality. His district and the Nation will miss his great leadership ability.

His family will feel his loss more keenly than any others, but in that feeling I want them to know that they have countless friends of their departed loved one who share their feeling of loss.

Mr. MILLS. Mr. Speaker, I associate myself with and fully subscribe to the tributes which have been paid today to our departed friend and colleague, ALBERT THOMAS. The Nation has lost an able and dedicated public servant; his district and State have lost an aggressive and effective advocate; we have all lost an admired friend and colleague.

For nearly 30 years, ALBERT THOMAS has served with dedication and distinction, and a great deal of that period was in a position as

chairman of one of the most important and influential subcommittees in the House of Representatives, the Independent Offices Subcommittee of the Appropriations Committee. Those of us who have had the privilege of watching ALBERT THOMAS carry out his duties know the careful scrutiny which he gave to the budget requests presented with respect to the various independent agencies and the skill and brilliance which he showed in debate when he was handling independent offices appropriation bills. He was a man of sound judgment. He was a determined advocate when he decided upon a course of action. He was knowledgeable at parliamentary tactics and procedure, and he was masterful in his ability to meet objections and solve difficult problems which would have defied a man of lesser determination and intelligence. ALBERT THOMAS was a great American. He will be missed.

I extend to his surviving family deepest sympathy and condolences. They can take solace in the knowledge that his long career of outstanding public service will forever stand as a monument to the great work which he has accomplished.

Mr. CULVER. Mr. Speaker, I want to join my colleagues today in paying tribute to the late ALBERT THOMAS.

It was with great regret that I learned of the death of this distinguished Member as he entered his 30th year of notable service to the Eighth Congressional District of Texas and to the Nation. His substantial accomplishments and the able guidance which he provided from his high position on the Appropriations and Joint Atomic Energy Committees speak eloquently for the loss experienced by the House of Representatives with his death.

From a personal standpoint, I shall always remain especially appreciative of the courtesy and assistance which Mr. THOMAS extended to me as a new Member during the past year. It was characteristic of the generous nature which won for him the respect and affection of his associates.

I considered it a great honor to serve with ALBERT THOMAS and I share the loss felt not only by his many friends and colleagues in the House of Representatives, but in his native State of Texas and throughout the Nation as well.

Mr. YATES. Mr. Speaker, one of the great men of the House of Representatives is gone. ALBERT THOMAS, of Texas, was one

of our giants. He was a man who possessed great sympathy for his fellow men together with keep commonsense and superlative ability. These outstanding personal traits were enclosed in a genial and friendly personality that had few equals in our group.

I served with ALBERT THOMAS for 12 years on the Independent Offices Subcommittee of the Committee on Appropriations. He was a master of the very complex and detailed material which make up the budget. For that matter he knew as much about the operations of the many independent offices which appeared before our subcommittee for the funds with which to carry on their operations as their officials.

The late beloved Speaker Rayburn used to say of ALBERT THOMAS that "he knew his bill." This was the Speaker's highest accolade for a Member of the House.

He did know his bill and he handled his responsibilities with dispatch and with superb tact. Every Member of the House recalls with warmth and pleasure the memory of ALBERT THOMAS' handling the independent offices appropriation bill on the floor of the House.

ALBERT was a man of great personal charm, graciousness, and generosity. His office was always open to requests for advice and assistance and there are few men in this House who did not receive help in connection with the various programs that were supervised by our committee.

It is difficult to single out any one of the many activities which came before his committee and say this was his favorite. I think, however, if I were to try to select one, it would be the National Science Foundation. I remember his pride in building the National Science Foundation into a powerful and efficient helpmate for the great scientific community of our Nation. He found particularly interesting and valuable the visits of outstanding scientists to the hearings of our subcommittee and he would greet them with a big smile and say, "Come on in, Doctor, we are delighted to have you here. Sit down and tell us the story of what's going on in your field."

The success of the International Geophysical Year stands as a monument to the courage and determination of ALBERT THOMAS.

Recounting such incidents would be almost an endless task. Others which come readily to mind were his sympathy for the hospitalized

veterans. He insisted that the regulatory agencies operate efficiently and economically, a demand which was made clear every time they appeared before us. His thorough and penetrating examination of every one of the witnesses brought the acknowledgement later from all of them that this was a man who was thoroughly grounded in the subject and who was fair in his treatment of them.

Mr. Speaker, there is a great void in the House of Representatives left by the departure of our beloved friend. We shall miss him very much. We extend to his fine family our profound sympathy and hope that time will in some measure ease the grief they now feel.

Mr. MATSUNAGA. Mr. Speaker, a great American, an unusually distinguished and able Member of this House and above all a good and courageous man, was lost to us on February 15 when the Honorable ALBERT THOMAS passed to his eternal reward. I say courageous, Mr. Speaker, because it certainly must have taken great courage to smile and remain as cheerful as ALBERT THOMAS did while suffering from the most dreadful and painful affliction known to man. Having had the opportunity to watch others afflicted with the same illness cringe and cry out in pain, I could not but choke with swelling admiration for ALBERT THOMAS when I visited him at the Bethesda Naval Hospital and he greeted me with the same, now legendary, broad smile and cheerful "Hi pardner."

Here was a man, the more of whose likeness the world would certainly profit by.

The esteem in which he was held by all who knew him was remarkable indeed. In his chairmanship of the Independent Offices Subcommittee of the House Appropriations Committee he won universal praise for the fairness of his judgment and for his passion for meticulous detail in the consideration of the requests for funds by a myriad of Federal agencies.

He won many friends among officers of the agencies of the executive branch who came before his subcommittee. The director of one of those agencies has said of him:

> He demanded the highest standards of public servants, while meeting those standards himself in every way. He was rigorous in his demands, but he was always fair, and he was always receptive to new ideas that might make the Government more responsive to the needs of the people it serves.

Now we must mourn his loss, and honor his memory. The Eighth Congressional District of Texas and his beloved country are the better for his great accomplishments on their behalf.

Born in Nacogdoches, Tex., in 1898, he attended public schools and matriculated at Rice Institute just before the First World War. When our country entered that conflict, he at once joined the Army, and was commissioned a second lieutenant. After the war, he obtained a bachelor's degree from Rice. He later became a student at the University of Texas Law School, and was graduated in 1926. After winning two terms as a district attorney, he became the assistant U.S. attorney for the southern district of Texas.

In that office of public trust and responsibility, he served with distinction for 6 years, and then was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1936. During all of the many years of his career in Congress, he worked mightily for the interests of his district. He served his constituents with complete dedication.

In the work of his congressional office, in his committee assignments, in debate on the floor of the House, he was an able and outstanding legislator. In addition to his important chairmanship of the Independent Offices Subcommittee, he was a member of the Joint Committee on Atomic Energy and the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee. For many years he was chairman of a subcommittee of the House Appropriations Committee—a subcommittee no longer in existence—which had jurisdiction over supplementary appropriations for all departments and agencies.

The President expressed the feelings of all of us who admired and respected him when he said that the death of ALBERT THOMAS left "a lonely place in the lives of those who knew him best."

I knew him, and knew him well—

the President continued—

He loved Houston and the Congress of the United States. He worked hard. He served well.

As we express our high regard for the man and the public servant, we also tender our deepest sympathies to the members of his sorrowing family, his beloved wife and daughters. They have lost a devoted husband and father, his colleagues have lost a trustworthy friend,

and the country has lost one of its finest and most courageous leaders.

Mr. MORGAN. Mr. Speaker, in the passing of ALBERT THOMAS, the country has lost one of its ablest and most distinguished legislators. We who had the honor and privilege of working with him have lost a dear friend and a colleague whose remarkable foresight and wisdom contributed lasting impacts in the enactment of major legislation.

During the three decades of his service in the House of Representative, ALBERT THOMAS was a great and positive influence in the growth and progress of our Nation. As a member of the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee, he consistently worked for a strong defense posture for our country. As a member of the Joint Atomic Engery Committee, he played a major role in the development of atomic energy.

It was always a pleasurable and informative experience to watch ALBERT THOMAS in debate on the floor of this House. His grasp of difficult and complex problems was profound and he had the keenness of intellect to reduce them to the simplest terms. This faculty, together with his mastery of parliamentary procedure, made him one of the truly great elder statesmen of our time.

I was proud to number myself among his friends. My own life has been enriched by his example and I shall miss his cheerful and friendly disposition as well as his dedicated participation in the work of this House.

I join with his host of other friends in extending deepest sympathy to his family.

Mr. REUSS. Mr. Speaker, the Eighth District of Texas, this House, and the entire Nation owe an immense debt of gratitude for the late ALBERT THOMAS' 30 years of distinguished and dedicated congressional service.

As a member of the Appropriations Committee, chairman of two appropriations subcommittees, and a member of the Joint Committee on Atomic Energy, he worked behind the scenes quietly and effectively. With great skill and diligence, with his wealth of experience and his progressive outlook, he made countless important contributions to the national welfare.

ALBERT THOMAS was a man of the people born in Nacogdoches,

Tex., where his father ran a general store. His humility and humanity allowed him to remain close to the people throughout his long tenure in office.

It was characteristic of this man who devoted his life to public service that he would continue his work throughout the lengthy illness which claimed his life February 15.

I should like to join today in expressing my deep sense of loss and my condolences to his wife and daughters. We shall miss him here in the Congress.

Mr. VANIK. Mr. Speaker, I want to take this opportunity to join my colleagues in the House of Representatives in paying tribute to the dedicated life of our recently deceased colleague, the Honorable ALBERT THOMAS, of the Eighth District of Texas.

During the course of my past 12 years in the House of Representatives, it has been my privilege many times to appear before his committee. On these occasions I had an opportunity to feel the inner warmth and the dignity with which he expeditiously conducted the work of his committee. His long experience and keen insight gave him the capacity for a quick appraisal of a person or a project far removed from his constituency. His kind manner was a source of strength.

On the floor of this body and throughout our daily work, ALBERT THOMAS was the friendly, warm person whose ready smile made our challenging day more acceptable. His affection for the House of Representatives extended to each individual Member.

Nothing inspires a Member of this body so much as the courage of a colleague. ALBERT THOMAS provided us with a bountiful share.

Mr. BENNETT. Mr. Speaker, no Member of Congress, at least in recent years, more justly earned the designation of gentleman than our beloved ALBERT THOMAS. He was firm, strong, self-reliant, and powerful, in counsel and in debate. But he was overall a kind, considerate, and gentle person. As such he won the respect and love of each of his colleagues and of the State and country he served as well.

Our deepest sympathy goes out to the loved ones of this great statesman who has been taken from us in a long and painful battle with a dread disease. A giant has fallen in the forest and the loss will long be felt.

Mr. PHILBIN. Mr. Speaker, I feel the deepest grief over the passing of my beloved and cherished friend, Congressman ALBERT THOMAS, of Texas. He was out outstanding in every respect—a dear, loyal friend, a superb legislator, and a great American.

A lawyer of most exceptional ability, he was one of the most effective men we have ever had in the Congress, and he was a good, kind, and generous man who gave his all for his country and his people.

Like a soldier stricken in battle, he fought to the end with supreme courage.

No one could possibly take his place in the Congress of the United States or in the hearts of his friends.

His memory will always be with us as representing the finest kind of Americanism and the best kind of true friendship.

We shall never see the like of the great ALBERT THOMAS again, but he will always remain in our memory.

My heart goes out to his beloved family in the truly irreparable loss they have suffered, and my family joins me in extending to them and all their dear ones our fervent prayers and heartfelt sympathy in their time of deepest grief and sorrow.

I invoke divine praises upon them in their sorrowful bereavement and hope and pray that the good Lord will bless them and bring them His reconciliation and peace and the strength to bear their sorrow with true fortitude.

May our beloved and dear friend, AL, find eternal rest and peace in his Heavenly home.

Mr. GATHINGS. Mr. Speaker, it was with sorrow that I learned a few days ago of the passing of Hon. ALBERT THOMAS, of Texas. He was admired and beloved by all of those who knew him. Since the opening of the Rayburn Building our offices were on the same corridor but his serious illness limited our associations in recent months. He possessed a pleasing, sincere, and courteous manner. He also had great tact and diplomacy in dealing with people.

In the 76th Congress it was a genuine pleasure to serve with AL THOMAS on the Irrigation and Reclamation Committee. Our chairman was Hon. Compton White, Sr., of Idaho, the father of the Representative from that State who bears the same name. In the deliberations of that committee ALBERT THOMAS made great contribu-

tions. He was conscientious in his attendance at the hearings and executive sessions. He sought all of the facts and a complete and thorough understanding of the subject matter before arriving at an opinion. I realized then that here was a true leader who had a great future in the House.

He was a devoted husband and father. He was also a statesman in the truest sense. He was a rare lawmaker, being gifted in the art of handling a bill on the floor of the House. Few men who have served here in the last quarter of a century could equal his finesse and the manner in which he successfully steered legislation to final passage. He had a sense of dedication to the job at hand, working tirelessly on measures before his subcommittee as well as the full Committee on Appropriations.

Alfred Lord Tennyson's poem is most fitting to include in these remarks on the passing of our colleague. It expresses the great faith in God that he possessed in abundance:

CROSSING THE BAR

Sunset and evening star,
And one clear call for me,
And may there be no moaning of the bar,
When I put out to sea.

But such a tide as moving seems asleep,
Too full for sound and foam,
When that which drew from out the boundless deep,
Turns again home.

Twilight and evening bell,
And after that the dark,
And may there be no sadness of farewell,
When I embark.

For tho' from out our bourne of time and place,
The flood may bear me far,
I hope to see my Pilot face to face,
When I have crost the bar.

—ALFRED LORD TENNYSON.

Mrs. Gathings joins me in expressing sympathy to Mrs. Thomas, their daughters, and the family.

Mr. RUMSFELD. Mr. Speaker, the country mourns the passing of the Honorable ALBERT THOMAS, who has represented the Eighth Congressional District of Texas with honor and achievement in 15

Congresses of these United States. No greater tribute can be paid a Member of Congress than to have his constituents return him time after time to represent them in their national legislative body. His loss will be deeply felt not only by his constituents and his State, but by the country as a whole. He will be long remembered as a great American, a dedicated public official whose major concern was the welfare of his country and the needs of its people. Our late colleague was an astute politician and firm, but fair, in his demands for high standards from public servants, including himself. As a trusted friend and adviser, a true gentleman with a warm and friendly personality, he will be sorely missed by all those who have learned to respect and love him. His place will not be easily filled.

It was a high privilege to have served with him and I shall long cherish that association which began in my very first week in the Congress. My service in the Congress has been richer because of his friendship.

To his wife and children, I extend my deepest sympathy.

Mr. RODINO. Mr. Speaker, on February 16 I saw from my office window the flags on the Capitol flying at halfmast. It was with deep sorrow that I realized this was in tribute to our late and beloved colleague, ALBERT THOMAS.

For 29 years ALBERT THOMAS served his district, Texas, and the Nation with unusual ability and integrity. He will surely rank in history as one of the Nation's outstanding Members of Congress.

As chairman of the Independent Offices Appropriations Subcommittee, he had the heavy burden of guiding decisions on the funds to be approved for 26 Government agencies. Housing, small business, maritime, communications, and outer space are only a few of the myriad Federal activities which came under his scrutiny. He carried out this massive task with remarkable competence and knowledge. Under his leadership this key subcommittee made possible countless Federal programs of vital importance to all Americans. The individual citizen who was able to buy a home under the FHA loan program owes much to him. And the Nation as a whole is in his debt for his magnificient role in assuring America's strength and security and in initiating our pioneering work in outer space.

ALBERT THOMAS was a gentleman of great courtesy and character, whether engaged in his official duties or in athletic pursuits in the

gymnasium. He was an unfailingly kind and gracious person. I recall, particularly, a personal experience which demonstrates his rare thoughtfulness. Some years ago, when I was in Johns Hopkins Hospital for eye surgery, ALBERT THOMAS called me to wish me well. He called, however, not from Washington, but from his own hospital bed in Texas, where he had just undergone the first of his several operations. I will ever remember this compassionate concern at a time when he himself was waging the most valiant struggle of all for survival.

I have been proud to call him my friend and colleague; and all who knew him can count themselves fortunate.

Mr. Speaker, the House, the Congress, and the Nation will long miss ALBERT THOMAS.

Mr. DE LA GARZA. Mr. Speaker, I am a freshman Member of the House to whom ALBERT THOMAS was always kind, always helpful. I know that I am one of a great number of new Members who have benefited from the consideration shown them by this great man.

It was in the nature of ALBERT THOMAS to be thoughtful of others. He loved this House, and he wanted every colleague of his to conduct himself in such a way as to bring honor to it. His long experience here had given him a wealth of knowledge—valuable knowledge that he willingly shared with those who were just getting started.

Now that he is gone from among us, the shining record of his service will continue as an inspiration to me—and, I know, to many, many others. All who knew ALBERT THOMAS are better men as a result. I join in mourning the passing of an eminent statesman, a loyal friend, and a grand human being.

Mr. DADDARIO. Mr. Speaker, our colleague, ALBERT THOMAS, will always be remembered with affection and respect by those who have been privileged to serve with him. His devotion to his duties as a Member of the House, and the stature of his service as chairman of the Subcommittee on Independent Offices Appropriations are outstanding examples to us all. The dignity and courage with which he bore the difficult burdens of his long final illness showed us a brave and selfless man at his best.

The work of ALBERT THOMAS had a significant effect on many of the most important national programs. He was a painstaking inquisitor, but most members of the scientific community realize that despite his searching questions, he was a perceptive, farseeing, compassionate friend. We will all miss ALBERT THOMAS for a very long time.

Mr. MADDEN. Mr. Speaker, when I came to the 78th Congress as a freshman one of the first persons to greet me as a newcomer was our departed colleague, ALBERT THOMAS. During the intervening years I, along with many other Members, enjoyed his friendship and consultations on various matters pertaining to the Government and other mutual problems.

ALBERT THOMAS possessed one of the most extraordinary personalities of any person whom I have met in public life. He had keen insight into legislative problems and devoted long hours of work in his legislative duties and service to his constituents. His remarkable ability to make friends and keep them is attested by the success he had in many reelections from the Eighth Congressional District of Texas.

During the later years all his friends knew he was suffering from painful and constant illness and marveled at his courage when they saw his friendly and smiling countenance greeting Members and friends with happiness and enthusiasm. Few Members of this legislative body could boast of having more sincere friends and well-wishers than Congressman ALBERT THOMAS. I know he will be greatly missed in the House of Representatives and in Washington as well as in his native Texas by thousands of devoted friends and acquaintances.

I wish to extend to Mrs. Thomas and his family my deepest sympathy in their bereavement.

Mr. FARNUM. Mr. Speaker, I grieve for the loss of ALBERT THOMAS, of the Eighth Congressional District of Texas, along with all of those who knew the joy of his friendship in this House, along with his loyal constituents, and, of course, with the members of his sorrowing family.

As a member of the Appropriations Committee of the House, I knew him as a committee colleague, and will revere his memory for the rest of my life, cherishing the recollections I have of his work in

that committee where he was the member who ranked next to the distinguished chairman.

The President recognized the extent of the loss which the House of Representatives, the Eighth Congressional District, and our country suffered by his passing, when he said of his fellow Texan:

> His devotion to the people he served and loyalty to his friends stand higher than all. I knew him—I knew him well—for a long time. He loved Houston and the Congress of the United States. He worked hard. He served well. His death leaves a lonely place in the lives of those who knew him best.

The details of his life have already been described in eulogies to this great man's record of achievement by those who have spoken of their deep sorrow at his passing. What I wish to mention is his extraordinary courtesy to the new Members of this body, new Members who sometimes found themselves in need of the kind of guidance that could be given only by someone who had been a vital part of the national legislative scene for the length of time that he had served here. The time of such men is precious. Besides the heavy burdens of their committee and subcommittee chairmanships there is the realization that life cannot go on forever, that if they are to achieve greatly, as most of them do, they must be about their tasks.

Yet, in counseling new Members, he never seemed to be in a hurry, he never displayed the least impatience, the slightest discourtesy, the smallest hesitation. He acted as if he had no other care in the world than to help the man who had asked his help. I will never forget Albert Thomas, for he was a public servant dedicated to helping other people help themselves.

I wish to extend my deepest, my most profound sympathies to his widow, Mrs. Lera Thomas; to his two daughters, Mrs. Edward A. Lasater, of São Paulo, Brazil, and Miss Lera Thomas, of Houston; to his sister, Mrs. James Ogg, of Brownsville, Tex., and to his brother, Eugene Thomas, of Houston. They and his grandchildren have much to be proud of.

Mr. BURKE. Mr. Speaker, with the members of the Texas delegation, with all of his colleagues who knew his many virtues and his great abilities, with his devoted constituents of the Eighth Congressional District of Texas, and with the members of his grieving family, I wish to join in expressing my own sorrow at the passing of Albert Thomas.

His career in the House of Representatives was in the great tradition. He served long and well not only his district, but his country. He was born in the small Texas town of Nacogdoches where he attended the local school system. He prepared for Rice Institute in which he enrolled prior to World War I. When the United States went to war, he enlisted immediately, received a commission as a second lieutenant, and served with pride and distinction. He returned to Rice Institute after the war, and later received a bachelor's degree. He studied at the University of Texas Law School from which he was graduated in 1926.

He returned to Nacogdoches and ran successfully for district and county attorney, a dual office. He was reelected and was serving his second term when he received an appointment as an assistant U.S. attorney for the southern district of Texas. After 6 years of distinguished service, he sought election to Congress, and in November of 1936 won his first contest for the seat he held until his recent tragic death.

He brought to every legislative task his wisdom, his unfailing courtesy, and his understanding of human aspirations and limitations.

He was a superb chairman of the House Un-American Activities Committee. He served with an unstinting measure of devotion and energy on the House Appropriations Committee. It was as chairman of the Independent Offices Subcommittee of the Appropriations Committee that his career reached its apogee, for here his vast knowledge of the intricacies of Federal finance was fittingly engaged on crucially important tasks.

He is survived by his widow, Mrs. Lera Thomas, his daughters, Mrs. Edward A. Lasater, of São Paulo, Brazil, and Miss Lera Thomas, of Houston, a sister and brother, and his grandchildren. In their hour of sorrow they may take some consolation from the brilliance of the record that was his life's history, and from the depth of the sense of loss experienced by his colleagues at his passing.

Mr. RANDALL. Mr. Speaker, our dear friend, AL THOMAS, may be removed from our midst but he will be forever cherished and loved as a dear and valued associate in the minds of his surviving colleagues so long as one remains.

There are many outstanding characteristics of this great man that should properly be commented upon in a eulogy. It is difficult to

pick out any one to dwell upon. He was a great orator, one of the best I ever listened to in this House of Representatives. He was a hard working member and chairman of his appropriations subcommittee. He was a loyal and devoted follower of his party. But, if there is one characteristic that impressed me more than the others, it was the fact that he was a friend who was always willing to be helpful to his fellow Members. It has been quite properly observed that some persons are easier to become acquainted with than others. Some have an aloofness but others have a down-to-earth attitude that makes friends very quickly.

I distinctly recall my first meeting with AL THOMAS in the 1st session of the 86th Congress in 1959. It was an experience that I shall never forget because here was a man who had been on the Hill for a long period of years, that took the time to be friendly to a new freshman Member and offered to try to be helpful, offering to furnish information or to give of his advice when called upon.

We remember how very flattering it was to have such an influential Member of the House of Representatives as AL THOMAS take the time to become acquainted with a new Member's activities before his coming to Congress. Also, I shall never forget the occasion when our dear departed friend enjoyed a dish of green rice prepared by Mrs. Randall so much that he asked her for the recipe. He commented that he came from an area that produced rice, and he never knew before it could be so tasty.

That was the way with AL THOMAS. He was the sort of man that could pass a quiet compliment and make the recipient feel that everything came right from the heart.

AL THOMAS will be sorely missed by those of us he leaves behind. His passing leaves a void that cannot be filled. Mrs. Randall joins with me in this our expression of sympathy to his devoted wife.

Mr. LANGEN. Mr. Speaker, many things go through our minds as we gather to eulogize a departed colleague such as ALBERT THOMAS, of Texas. We automatically think of the 15 terms he served that span a time of almost 30 years. We remember his long service on the Appropriations Committee that saw him rise to the No. 2 position, right behind the chairman. We recall his chairmanship of the Independent Offices Subcommittee. We also note his

service on the Joint Committee on Atomic Energy and the Joint Committee on Reduction of Nonessential Federal Expenditures.

We remember his stirring appearances on the floor of this House as he used his great grasp for complex and technical problems to hammer home his points.

We also remember ALBERT THOMAS' dedication to his district, to his State of Texas, and foremost, to his Nation.

These things we automatically recall today as we ponder the future without the dynamic personality of ALBERT THOMAS among us.

But to me, the passing of a man of his stature, of his long term of service, of his great and unusual accomplishments, means something more than a record of performance. For, truly, men such as ALBERT THOMAS continue to live in these Halls, not just through their past service, but through the inspiration and principles they leave behind.

I had the honor of serving on the Appropriations Committee with ALBERT THOMAS, and I am a better member of that committee because of him. All who have served with him, whether on a committee or merely as a colleague in this great body, are somehow better because of the association with ALBERT THOMAS.

The Congresses in the future will indeed be better because of the example and presence of ALBERT THOMAS who was here to show us the way. While all of us grieve his passing, we can rejoice in the legacy of wisdom and excellence bequeathed us by ALBERT THOMAS.

MEMORIAL ADDRESSES
IN THE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

ADDRESS BY HON. L. MENDEL RIVERS

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

Mr. Speaker, once again we pause to note the passing of a beloved colleague. Too often the stalwarts of the Congress, who have written so much of the history of their times, are suddenly gone from the scene. In awe of God's inscrutable ways we meet today to register our sincere thoughts of ALBERT THOMAS, what he meant and how we will miss him.

To know ALBERT was to love and respect him. During the years he so ably served the Eighth Congressional District of Texas, I learned to appreciate what a fine, outstanding job he did in carrying out his responsibilities to his people. Loved and respected for his fairness, sound judgment, deep courage, and devotion to America, his rare capacity for leadership will be sorely missed in the years to come.

He was quiet and soft spoken, and as he went about his daily tasks, he had a kind greeting for everyone.

In thinking of ALBERT, I am reminded of the words penned by the late Sir William Osler, the noted Canadian physician:

> I have three personal ideals. One, to do the day's work well and not to bother about tomorrow. The second ideal has been to act the Golden Rule, as far as in me lay, toward my professional brethren and toward those committed to my care. And the third has been to cultivate such a measure of equanimity as would enable me to bear success with humility, the affection of my friends without pride, and to be ready when the day of sorrow and grief came to meet it with the courage befitting a man.

ALBERT THOMAS fully measured up to such ideals. We shall miss him, but he has left forever with us countless memories of a wonderful person.

ADDRESS BY HON. JOE R. POOL

OF TEXAS

Mr. Speaker, the death of ALBERT THOMAS, Representative from Houston, is a particularly great loss to the Texas delegation, of which he was a senior member. An alumnus of two fine Texas institutes of higher learning—Rice University and the University of Texas, he was also a veteran of World War I and a distinguished attorney at law. He came to Washington some 30 years ago to distinguish himself further, this time as a U.S. Congressman. As the years passed, he became an important member of the House Committee on Appropriations, heading several key subcommittees, and serving on the Joint Committee on Atomic Energy.

But it is not just for his great public service that I shall remember ALBERT THOMAS. I shall first and foremost forever cherish my remembrance of him as a fine human being and as my friend. When I first came to Congress in 1963, Mr. THOMAS was a great help to me in learning the fine details of the legislative process. Always considerate and gracious, he was what I think a true gentleman must be. A Democrat who contributed greatly to his party, he was liked and admired by Democrats and Republicans alike. He was my friend, and I shall truly miss him. But even more important to note here today is that the loss of this fine Member of Congress will be felt by the Nation for many years to come. The place of such a fine gentleman as ALBERT THOMAS is not easily filled in the world today.

ADDRESS BY HON. EDNA F. KELLY

OF NEW YORK

Mr. Speaker, the loss of ALBERT THOMAS, as a Representative of the State of Texas and as a symbol of great statesmen is an irreplaceable one.

My admiration for him began during my first days as a Member of Congress from the State of New York.

All of the outstanding attributes for which the image seekers of today search, veritably shone in the great mind, the wit, and, above all, the character of Congressman THOMAS. I hasten to join in tribute today with my colleagues. He was a gentleman and a scholar.

His magnificent verbal sparring on the floor of the House of Representatives, either in the presentation of a supplemental budget or in his flawless elucidation of an argument, was eagerly anticipated by each and every Member of Congress.

I am grateful to have served with Congressman THOMAS in his capacity as chairman of the Democratic caucus and I am proud to have called him my colleague.

I wish to express my deep sympathy to the Thomas family and pray for God's blessings upon them to endure their sorrow.

ADDRESS BY HON. OLIN E. TEAGUE

OF TEXAS

Mr. Speaker, it is with a heart full of sorrow that I eulogize my good friend ALBERT THOMAS, who this day was called by his Maker after many years of personal suffering. He was one of the most unforgettable characters I have ever met, but I know I am the richer for it. He never complained to anyone and always had a happy and hearty "Hi there" for everyone, together with a wave of his hand.

His service in the House of Representatives spans three decades in which much important legislation was written, and in which much history was made. It is marked with the same characteristic of no thoughts for himself, but always for his fellow man and his welfare. The people he represented saluted this characteristic by returning him 15 times to this great body.

ALBERT THOMAS' position on the Appropriations Committee brought him into daily contact with officials of the various independent offices of our Government. His knowledge of fiscal affairs and budgetary procedures was uncanny. He was a shrewd inquisitor of witnesses who appeared before his committee and yet was respected by all.

I join his family in mourning the loss of this great statesman who served his country well.

ADDRESS BY HON. PAUL B. DAGUE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

Mr. Speaker, the House of Representatives stands bereft of one of its stalwarts and all of the colleagues of ALBERT THOMAS are immeasurably saddened by his passing.

ALBERT THOMAS distinguished himself as an able and conscientious legislator and the American taxpayer is in his debt because of his wise and prudent scanning of appropriations. We recognized his outstanding leadership in the field of governmental economics, but our hearts yearn for him today and we mourn his absence, largely because of his charm and sweetness of character.

ALBERT THOMAS was a kindly man and his ever-present smile, even when his body was wracked with pain, left an indelible mark on all our hearts. All of us are a bit better for having known him, and we shall keep his memory forever green. May Almighty God bring rest to his gentle soul.

Mrs. Dague joins with me in extending our heartfelt condolences to his sorrowing family, and it is our prayerful hope that they may be given added strength as they travel through the dark valley.

ADDRESS BY HON. O. C. FISHER

OF TEXAS

Mr. Speaker, the passing of ALBERT THOMAS leaves a void in this House that can hardly be filled. He served for 30 years, and his presence here cast a long shadow over this Chamber. He was honored and respected by all who knew him.

To me I feel that I have lost a personal friend. Indeed few men who have served in this body could count quite as many friends among

colleagues as was true with ALBERT. His friendly, pleasant, and positive attitude served to command a following and wield an influence on the issues of the day.

ALBERT was a very knowledgeable man. He was an expert in many fields. He did his homework well, armed with facts and good reason to support his position. His colleagues learned they could depend upon his judgment and upon his recitation of facts which related to an issue.

It was upon this record of ability, integrity, and sincerity that ALBERT built an enviable reputation in this body. He became widely recognized as one of the most effective and powerful legislators who has served here in many years.

To the family I extend my deepest sympathy in their bereavement.

ADDRESS BY HON. LEONARD FARBSTEIN

OF NEW YORK

Mr. Speaker, I join with others of my colleagues in their tribute to ALBERT THOMAS, of Texas. It is impossible to sum up in any number of words and glowing phrases the life and accomplishments of so learned and competent a legislator as ALBERT THOMAS. Each of his 29 years in the House speak most eloquently of his dedication to his constituents and country. He was a public servant in the most honorable and unselfish sense.

All of us who knew him feel a real loss at his passing. Never will we forget his ability to work with his colleagues in the legislative branch. His service in the House was impressive, effective, and uncommon.

The same courage and resourcefulness he showed in the House carried over to his personal life and was apparent in the manner in which he responded to his serious illness. Regardless of personal pain and sacrifice, he carried out his duties.

Mr. Speaker, I add my personal message of sympathy to his devoted wife and daughters. I share their sense of loss at this time.

ADDRESS BY HON. JOHN J. ROONEY

OF NEW YORK

Mr. Speaker, for the more than two decades that I have been privileged to serve as a Member of this body I have also had the privilege of serving on the House Committee on Appropriations with the Honorable ALBERT THOMAS, of Texas. But ALBERT THOMAS is now gone and we are saddened by, and poorer for, his absence.

In all his years of membership on the House Committee on Appropriations, ALBERT THOMAS provided continual guidance and leadership to the entire House of Representatives. Yet he always, too, had time for the warm greeting, the kind word. He was truly a fine gentleman. He also was truly a fine Congressman and one is hard pressed to call to mind a superior chairman of a House Appropriations Subcommittee. His interests ranged from defense, to veterans, to space and aviation, just to name a few. He fought for what he believed was right and slashed away at inefficiency and waste. And at all times ALBERT magnificently represented the people of the Eighth Congressional District of Texas and the city of Houston. I doubt that any Member of this House has achieved more for the people of his home city and congressional district than ALBERT THOMAS.

To lovely Mrs. Thomas and their charming daughters I offer my deepest sympathy and prayers.

ADDRESS BY HON. SAMUEL S. STRATTON

OF NEW YORK

Mr. Speaker, all of us have been deeply saddened by the passing of our great and good friend and colleague, ALBERT THOMAS, of Texas. All of us who had the privilege of serving with him in this body know the warmth of his personality, and the courtly and gracious and courteous manner in which he discharged his responsibilities.

I shall always remember ALBERT THOMAS best as he was when he was steering one of the appropriation bills from his own committee

through the House. He always stood in the aisle, alongside the majority committee table, never in the well, with his glasses either in his hand or shoved back high on his forehead, a smile on his face, always trying hard to meet the desires and wishes of questioning or critical Members. ALBERT THOMAS in action on this floor was a legislative wonder to behold, the kind of grace in motion that President Kennedy used to refer to. He represented for all of us, I am sure, the epitome of the effective legislator, something we all hope ultimately to become.

One more point, Mr. Speaker, and that is the fantastic courage which ALBERT THOMAS embodied. Few who watched him steering a bill through this House could have dreamed of the heavy burden he was carrying. Yet he always faced the future with confidence, with hope, and with good cheer. What an inspiration for us all. How much we shall miss his voice and his step in this Chamber in the days ahead.

ADDRESS BY HON. FRED B. ROONEY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

Mr. Speaker, I deem it an honor to add my voice to the many already raised in this Chamber in praise of a great and good American lawmaker, ALBERT THOMAS.

When I came to this Congress 3 years ago, I discovered very quickly that I would need the almost daily counsel and wisdom of as many of my distinguished seniors as I could possibly get. To my everlasting gratitude, not one request for guidance on my part has ever been denied, no matter how small or unimportant the issue may have seemed.

ALBERT THOMAS lives in my memory as one of those who tried, at all times, to give me the benefit of his experience. He was a kind, courteous, considerate gentleman whose 30 years in this House have left a mark of distinction and impressive achievement.

Above all, he was a man of consummate courage.

Those final days of his life were a shining monument to an indomitable human spirit.

I think we all should take consolation in the fact that one man among us could confront the daily reminder of impending death with an invincible faith in his fellowman.

I am privileged to count myself as one of the numberless thousands whose lives have been enriched by ALBERT THOMAS, a dedicated public servant and a devoted friend.

ADDRESS BY HON. THOMAS G. MORRIS

OF NEW MEXICO

Mr. Speaker, the magnificent memory of ALBERT THOMAS will resound for years to come in this Chamber because the echo of his voice and the footprints of his life's dedication are immortal.

Not only his colleagues but people from all walks of life approached ALBERT for help with problems of major and minor significance—and each of them received a courteous audience and a helping hand. For ALBERT THOMAS, despite the high position he had attained, remained a kindly man whose patient guidance and thorough understanding endeared him to countless numbers of people who join me in mourning the passing of a "very dear friend."

We are taught that each of us is born with certain talents and the responsibility to multiply those talents. There is not the slightest question in my mind but what ALBERT's race was well run and that his life's work was eminently well done.

My heartfelt sympathy is extended to Mrs. Thomas and the two children. They, too, have suffered a great loss. But I hope they will find consolation in the fact that ALBERT THOMAS left them a cherished heritage that few of us can hope to approximate. His rule of life might well have been taken from the words of the poet, Edgar Guest, who said:

> Somebody said that it couldn't be done
> But he with a chuckle replied
> That "maybe it couldn't" but he would be one
> Who wouldn't say so till he'd tried.

ADDRESS BY HON. JAMES C. CORMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

Mr. Speaker, I wish to join with my colleagues in expressing my deep regret and sorrow at the passing of ALBERT THOMAS.

History demonstrates that this House is a sound judge of men and their character. The respect, admiration, and devotion of the Members of this body are the surest test of greatness. During his 30 years of service in Congress, ALBERT THOMAS met that test. The sincerity of emotion which has marked his passing is but a final confirmation of ALBERT THOMAS' monumental achievements. ALBERT THOMAS firmly believed that the U.S. Congress must fulfill its role vigorously and responsibly.

His burden was great, as chairman of the Subcommittee on Independent Offices Appropriations, but his competence and dedication have earned him a prominent place in the annals of our Nation.

It has been truly said that there could only be one ALBERT THOMAS and that we are much the lesser for his passing. But it is also true that his stirring example of courage and compassion will serve as an inspiration to all those aspiring to serve this Congress and the Nation.

ADDRESS BY HON. BEN REIFEL

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

Mr. Speaker, it was with deepest sorrow that I heard of the passing of the Honorable ALBERT THOMAS of Texas. This distinguished American was one of the first to introduce himself to me when I joined this body in 1961. At that time he offered his help and advice to me as a freshman Congressman, a gesture which I have since learned was repeated countless times with other beginning Members. This was typical of his spirit of friendliness and helpfulness to all.

Many were the times when I was privileged to draw upon his vast store of knowledge and wisdom for guidance in everyday prob-

lems. ALBERT THOMAS always was as helpful and sincere as any friend could be despite the fact that, as a senior Member with important responsibilities, he had far more crucial matters to occupy his time and attention.

But in addition to these personal qualities, ALBERT THOMAS was a great legislator. He had few peers in his ability to steer a piece of legislation through the committee processes and pass the legislative roadblocks of House debate. He was one of the most skilled orators in this body. He was a man of utmost integrity and intellectual honesty who demonstrated unusual capacities of reason and perception before reaching informed decisions.

Mr. THOMAS was particularly helpful to me and my constituents of the First District of South Dakota on a number of occasions in connection with his duties as chairman of the House Appropriation Subcommittee on Independent Offices. Although he was a member of the other party, this in no way influenced his spirit of fairness in dealing with all matters within his jurisdiction.

In our associations on the full House Appropriations Committee I marveled at his tremendous store of wisdom and perception, his eloquent persuasiveness, and his consideration for opposing points of view.

ALBERT THOMAS earned the reputation as the type of astute lawmaker to which all of us aspire. This Congress and this country have suffered a great loss in his passing.

ADDRESS BY HON. HENRY B. GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

Mr. Speaker, those of us who have had the great privilege of knowing and being associated with the great Texan and Congressman, ALBERT THOMAS, feel a deep sense of loss.

Whether it was in the House gymnasium, or in committee meeting, or on the floor of the House, Congressman THOMAS was the perfect gentleman, and truly a man's man. He has left an imperishable memory with us and numerous monuments to his effectiveness and efficiency with his constituency.

No amount of words or phrases that I might offer here and now could possibly add to what has already been said and what will continue to be said for many years.

But, as the great American poet has said:

So when a great man dies
For years beyond our ken,
The light he leaves behind him lies
Upon the paths of men.

ADDRESS BY HON. NEAL SMITH

OF IOWA

Mr. Speaker, Members of this body who have served for many, many years in the House of Representatives with ALBERT THOMAS have set forth his outstanding characteristics.

The leadership on both sides of the aisle, men who have worked with him on many difficult and controversial problems that were very important to the Nation, have extolled his virtues and have told of his great ability.

Although I only had the privilege of serving with him on the Committee on Appropriations for 4 years, he provided many examples of leadership that will never be forgotten. It is generally conceded by all who served with him that no chairman of a subcommittee had greater capacity to handle a bill on the floor or to develop it for presentation to the entire membership of the House. He went out of his way to try to understand the problems of younger members of the committee as well as of the House and I was one of the continuous beneficiaries of his thoughtfulness.

As many others before me have stated, I considered him a personal, a good, and a warm friend whose name and record will never be forgotten and to his family I express my deepest sympathy for the great loss that they, too, have suffered.

ADDRESS BY HON. THOMAS M. PELLY

OF WASHINGTON

Mr. Speaker, like other Members of this House, I am deeply saddened that ALBERT THOMAS, of Texas, our good friend and most able colleague has gone to the only real "upper body" there is, where eventually all of us will meet.

ALBERT THOMAS was not only an outstanding Congressman, but in addition, his warm greeting and kindly words had won from us the real affection as well as admiration that gives each of us at this time such a real feeling of loss.

When AL managed an appropriation bill on the floor, when we asked questions, or when we criticized the legislation before us, he always flattered us a bit, calling us genial and able friends and as a result there never was any hard feeling, only respect and kindliness.

Mr. Speaker, ALBERT THOMAS without a doubt was one of the hardest working Members of the House, and I never expect to meet any more dedicated and skillful legislator. His service to the Nation will be sorely missed.

My wife shares my sense of loss and we extend to Mrs. Thomas and his family our deepest sympathy.

ADDRESS BY HON. JULIA BUTLER HANSEN

OF WASHINGTON

Mr. Speaker, at this time I would like to join with my colleagues in paying a deep and sincere tribute to our beloved Member, the late ALBERT THOMAS of Texas.

When I first came to Congress it was Mr. THOMAS who was so kind about details of budgetary affairs of great significance in my district.

There was never a time, nor an occasion, when he was not helpful and always he was a courtly, gracious gentleman.

The United States and Texas have lost a great Member of this body, but each of us has lost a magnificent friend.

My deepest and sincerest sympathy to his family.

ADDRESS BY HON. EMANUEL CELLER

OF NEW YORK

Mr. Speaker, for almost 30 years I have had the privilege of knowing ALBERT THOMAS who with each year of service rose in the esteem and affection of every Member of the House. This House will not be the same without him.

ALBERT THOMAS was a quiet man; he shunned publicity, devoting his energies to making himself expert in the most complex legislative matters, such as appropriations for the Department of Defense and appropriations for independent offices. His discretion and judgment served the Joint Committee on Atomic Energy well.

ALBERT THOMAS had courage and faith, and both sustained him during his last illness. I looked upon him as one of us oldtimers. Only 10 men now in the House of Representatives have served longer. Especially for those of us among the 10, his passing is especially cruel.

To his wife and to his family I extend my deepest sympathy and join in their sense of loss.

ADDRESS BY HON. ROBERT N. GIAIMO

OF CONNECTICUT

Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay my respects to the memory of the late ALBERT THOMAS, of Texas. ALBERT THOMAS was one of my personal heroes and one of the finest Congressmen that any State of the United States has ever sent to Washington. He was a gentleman and a very gentle man. At the same time he was forceful, quick, brilliant, gracious, and always kind.

Before it became my honor to serve on his subcommittee of the Committee on Appropriations, I remember watching him with awe and I marveled at his masterful annual presentation of the complex independent offices budget on this floor. In the brief time that it was my pleasure to serve with him on this subcommittee I realize fully the extent of the work that he put into this task and his incredible and brilliant understanding of the complex workings of the many executive agencies under his committee's jurisdiction.

In the three decades that Mr. THOMAS served in Congress he has put his personal stamp on much of the good legislation which has come through this Congress. ALBERT THOMAS did not seek headlines or personal fame. I believe he viewed his task in Congress as a personal responsibility to work for the betterment of all people, for the increased effectiveness of our Government, and for the recognition of innovation and of the necessity for progress. Mr. THOMAS was a hard and tireless worker even while undergoing personal suffering which would have shattered a lesser man.

It was really an honor to know this man and to have him as a friend.

Mr. Speaker, to his widow and his daughters I extend my deep sympathy and prayers.

ADDRESS BY HON. EMILIO Q. DADDARIO

OF CONNECTICUT

Mr. Speaker, it was with sorrow that I learned of the passing of ALBERT THOMAS, a distinguished and dedicated public servant. I consider myself honored to have served with him in this body and in the Committee on Appropriations.

It was my privilege to meet ALBERT THOMAS in the cloakroom the opening day of the 87th Congress when I was being sworn in for the first time. He was friendly and kind. He gave me my first lesson in certain unwritten House rules with which we are all familiar—a lesson I have never forgotten.

ALBERT lived and worked for his district, State, and Nation. We all owe him a debt of gratitude for the great services he has ren-

dered—his record of service has earned him a place among the great men who have served in this House. While he has left us, he lives on in the lives of those who were privileged to work with and to know him.

To his family I extend my heartfelt sympathy.

ADDRESS BY HON. JOHN O. MARSH, JR.

OF VIRGINIA

Mr. Speaker, although I did not have the opportunity to learn to know the late ALBERT THOMAS as well as so many of my colleagues who have paid tribute to this distinguished American, nevertheless I became aware of the loss suffered not only by the Congress of the United States, but by the people of our great country by the passing of this man.

As a comparative newcomer in the House of Representatives, I remember him for the courteous and thoughtful manner which he always displayed to new Members of the House, I remember when I came here in the 88th Congress how he went out of his way to accommodate new Members and, although he had vast congressional duties and years of seniority, he always found time to talk to newer Members of the House in a manner that set them at ease and made them feel at home. Notwithstanding his many years of legislative experience and seniority that made him such a towering figure in the House, he was a man of humility, and carried his position and honors with an easy grace.

In the 89th Congress, it was my privilege to serve with him on the Appropriations Committee and encounter him as a newcomer serving on this committee. Again I saw the graciousness that was the hallmark of ALBERT THOMAS as he welcomed not only myself, but other new members to the committee of which he was such a valuable member.

As others have pointed out, he will be missed not only in the meetings of the committees and on the floor of the House, where he was a master of debate, but, even more, as a man whose warm

and friendly ways contributed so much to the House of Representatives.

ADDRESS BY HON. WAYNE N. ASPINALL

OF COLORADO

Mr. Speaker, the Happy Warrior of Texas has given to us his last smile and his final handshake. Very few Members of Congress in recent years have made a greater lasting impression upon us than did ALBERT THOMAS when he walked among us. A tireless worker, a fearless advocate, an effective but considerate opponent, he invariably carried his congressional assignment forward to success without any apparent thought that defeat might come his way. Such a companion and coworker invariably leaves behind him a living immortality. His companions remember him long and well.

As John Donne wrote in his "No Man Is an Island":

> Any man's death diminishes me, because I am involved in mankind, and therefore never send to know for whom the bell tolls; it tolls for thee.

The death of ALBERT THOMAS has diminished this body more than a little. We miss him; we shall continue to miss him. No man, even while in great pain and with a constant reminder of the transient challenge of mortality, bore himself more courageously than our companion who has now made his final adieu.

Mrs. Aspinall and I extend to Mrs. Thomas and the family our most sincere sympathy and condolences.

ADDRESS BY HON. ROBERT McCLORY

OF ILLINOIS

Mr. Speaker, ALBERT THOMAS, U.S. Representative for the Eighth District of Texas whose passing we are mourning, fits precisely into the definition of a "gentleman." He was courteous and respect-

ful, attentive to those with whom he came in contact, and respectful of the views of others even though in conflict with his own convictions.

Congressman THOMAS was an inspiration to all who found the need for physical exercise and recreation to enable them to carry on their arduous and demanding duties as Representatives in the Congress. His significant support of physical fitness and recreation for Members of the House resulted in the installation of more adequate exercise rooms and a swimming pool in the new Rayburn House Office Building. At the dedication of these facilities I was proud to join with numerous colleagues from the U.S. House of Representatives to honor AL THOMAS, distingiushed lawmaker, valued friend, and leader among men. Both at this hour and during his long years of service, Congressman ALBERT THOMAS' greatness was recognized by those whom he served.

In the course of his 15 consecutive terms in the U.S. House of Representatives he devoted himself unselfishly to issues and purposes most beneficial to mankind's development and common good. The name of ALBERT THOMAS will be remembered with affection and admiration so long as the history of the U.S. House of Representatives is recalled. I extend my sympathy to his widow and to all members of ALBERT THOMAS' family.

ADDRESS BY HON. THADDEUS J. DULSKI

OF NEW YORK

Mr. Speaker, in the passing of ALBERT THOMAS, the House and the people of the United States have lost an old and dear friend. His death leaves a void in the affairs of this Nation and in the hearts of his countrymen that can never be filled.

Although I did not share the long association with Mr. THOMAS that many of my colleagues enjoyed, I felt a deep sense of deprivation and sorrow when I learned of his death. On several occasions I sought his wise counsel and sage advice. He was a warm and sincere person, and I valued his friendship.

We shall long remember ALBERT THOMAS for what he was—a knowledgeable and dedicated legislator, an outstanding citizen, and, above all else to us, a kind and understanding friend.

He was a man of great courage and endurance. Under stress and pain, he carried on unflinchingly until the Maker called him to his eternal rest.

We in the Congress shall miss him greatly for he was indeed one of our true leaders.

I extend my deepest sympathy and condolences to his widow and daughters.

ADDRESS BY HON. FRANK HORTON

OF NEW YORK

Mr. Speaker, the final departure of ALBERT THOMAS, of the Texas Eighth District, is a serious loss, not only to those of us who knew, admired, and respected him for his talents as a Congressman, but also to the many thousands who valued his political accomplishments, even from afar.

Throughout his lifetime ALBERT THOMAS was a citizen of Texas, and he burned with a desire to serve the needs of the people and strengthen the traditions of his State. And—in keeping with this desire—he had the capacity to comprehend the needs of the times and to serve his constituents with unflagging energy and unswerving devotion.

ALBERT THOMAS was born in 1898 in Nacogdoches, Tex., where he attended the public schools before entering Rice Institute. Obtaining a commission in the Army, he left college to serve in World War I. Following the armistice he returned to college, graduating from Texas Law School in 1926.

As a young lawyer he was sufficiently impressive to win election as district attorney, which office he held for two terms. In 1930 he was appointed assistant U.S. attorney for the southern district of Texas, and in 1936 he was elected to Congress.

In Washington ALBERT THOMAS found that lawmaking was as much to his liking as law enforcement. In a short time he revealed his knowledge and abilities in several phases of the law, serving on committees as different in nature as Appropriations, Un-American Activities, and the Joint Committee on Atomic Energy. He was for a time chairman of the Un-American Activities Committee, and was for many years chairman of the Independent Offices Subcommittee of the Appropriations Committee. He also served as chairman of a special appropriations subcommittee with jurisdiction over supplemental appropriations.

President Johnson, who knew ALBERT THOMAS for many years, has praised him for his unfaltering "devotion to the people he served," and surely there was never praise more well deserved than this. For undoubtedly, as the President observed, ALBERT THOMAS "worked hard" and "served well," far beyond the mere call of duty.

Yes; we who admired the political ability of this remarkable Congressman will miss him dearly in the days ahead. And those of us—myself included—who knew and loved him as a person, will be doubly mournful. It was indeed an honor to know and to work with ALBERT THOMAS, and to have experienced the satisfaction of dealing with an outstanding public servant wholly dedicated to the interests of his flag, his country, his district, and his fellowman.

ADDRESS BY HON. GEORGE M. RHODES

OF PENNSYLVANIA

Mr. Speaker, I join with other of my colleagues in their tribute to ALBERT THOMAS, of Texas. In his 29 years in the House ALBERT THOMAS distinguished himself as an able and conscientious legislator. All of us who were privileged to have known him feel a real loss at his passing.

As an outstanding expert in the field of economics his service in the House was most impressive. His many achievements could not be covered in a few words. Suffice to say that the American people and the Nation were always well served by his prudent and wise judgments as a member of the House Appropriations Committee.

In addition to his abilities as a legislator, ALBERT THOMAS was a warm and friendly man. He was held in admiration and respect by every Member who served with him. All of us are better for having known him.

Mr. Speaker, I add my personal message of sympathy to his widow and family. I share their sense of loss and sorrow.

ADDRESS BY HON. FRANK CHELF

OF KENTUCKY

Mr. Speaker, the House lost an able Member, the Nation lost a loyal and faithful legislator, and we lost a valued colleague when ALBERT THOMAS, of Texas, passed away recently.

ALBERT was my dear friend and I miss him here in the House where he served with great ability and distinction. He made an outstanding contribution to his district, his State, and his Nation during his years of membership. He was truly a "legislator's legislator."

He will always be remembered in the House not only for his valuable service but for his famous and familiar handwave and handclasp of friendship. It was a privilege to have known ALBERT THOMAS and the world is a far poorer place for his having left it. This world can ill afford to lose men of his caliber. God rest his sweet soul in peace.

To his family, I would like to extend my deep sympathy, and it is my hope that God will bless each of them and give them comfort.

PROCEEDINGS
IN THE
UNITED STATES SENATE

Proceedings in the Senate

WEDNESDAY, *February 16, 1966.*

Mr. TOWER. Mr. President, it is my unhappy position to offer a resolution on behalf of myself and my distinguished senior colleague from Texas [Mr. Yarborough], regarding the death of Representative ALBERT THOMAS, of Texas.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Will the Senator permit the Chair to lay a resolution of the House before the Senate?

Mr. TOWER. Yes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair lays before the Senate a resolution from the House of Representatives, which will be stated by the clerk.

The legislative clerk read the resolution (H. Res. 730), as follows:

In the House of Representatives, U.S.,
February 15, 1966.

Resolved, That the House has heard with profound sorrow of the death of the Honorable ALBERT THOMAS, a Representative from the State of Texas.

Resolved, That a committee of fifty Members of the House, with such Members of the Senate as may be joined, be appointed to attend the funeral.

Resolved, That the Sergeant at Arms of the House be authorized and directed to take such steps as may be necessary for carrying out the provisions of these resolutions and that the necessary expenses in connection therewith be paid out of the contingent fund of the House.

Resolved, That the Clerk communicate these resolutions to the Senate and transmit a copy thereof to the family of the deceased.

Resolved, That as a further mark of respect, the House do now adjourn.

Mr. TOWER. Mr. President, for some 29 years, Representative THOMAS served all of the people of the country, and of Texas, not just those of his district.

Despite his influence and interest in national affairs, however, he always remembered best his own constituency, laboring long and hard in behalf of the Houston, Tex., area, its people, and their interests.

For 21 of his 29 years here, he represented all of Harris County. The interests of this district were probably as diverse as those of any congressional district in the country, but support for Congressman THOMAS came from all quarters—labor, industry, business, banking, shipping, farming, ranching, and many others. And despite redistricting several years ago, his interest in behalf of all of the Houston area continued.

The people of our country can be thankful for Congressman THOMAS' scrutiny of the budget requests of the independent Government agencies. As ranking member of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Independent Agencies for a number of years, he did all he could to see that the taxpayer's money was spent as judiciously as possible.

Representative THOMAS, primarily through amendment and skillful and shrewd debate, left his mark on much legislation that was passed during his many years in Washington. He demonstrated time and again his masterfulness as a working politician and public official.

Houston, the State of Texas, and the country are indeed better off as a result of Congressman THOMAS' service. His constituents, his State, and his country will all miss him. Senator Yarborough and myself, and I know all of my Senate colleagues, extend the deepest of sympathies to members of the family.

Mr. LONG of Louisiana. It was a distinct privilege to serve in the same Congress with Representative ALBERT THOMAS.

We enjoyed his oratory, brilliance, wit, and friendship. We in Louisiana sometimes felt we wished we could have had him because, as a Representative from Texas, on occasion we had to compete with Texas for projects that could have gone to Louisiana or Texas.

Representative THOMAS, with his position on key committees in the House of Representatives had a way of laying his long Texan hands on things that we thought should go to Louisiana, and getting them for his district in Texas.

He was a representative of his people in the best tradition of the Constitution, which assures that each State shall have two Senators, and each congressional district will have one Representative.

It has been said in this body many times that each Senator is equal, but that some are more equal than others. That is more true in the House of Representatives, where each Representative is equal but some are more equal than other Representatives.

ALBERT THOMAS was one of the most equal of them all, because he had a way of representing his State and representing his district in the most effective way.

One thing that concerned Louisianians, and sometimes gave us great concern, was the weekly meetings of Texans, when they would get their heads together to see whether or not there was anything of advantage for Texas. While we did not have such an arrangement in Louisiana, we sometimes thought it was necessary.

Representative THOMAS very effectively helped his colleagues in other districts throughout the great State of Texas, but above all he was a great American, and his interest for his country was first and above all other matters.

Mr. TOWER. Mr. President, on behalf of my colleague [Mr. Yarborough] and myself, I submit a resolution and ask for its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the resolution.

The legislative clerk read the resolution (S. Res. 225), as follows:

SENATE RESOLUTION 225

Resolved, That the Senate has heard with profound sorrow the announcement of the death of Hon. ALBERT THOMAS, late a Representative from the State of Texas.

Resolved, That a committee of two Senators be appointed by the Presiding Officer to join the committee appointed on the part of the House of Representatives to attend the funeral of the deceased Representative.

Resolved, That the Secretary communicate these resolutions to the House of Representatives and transmit an enrolled copy thereof to the family of the deceased.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the resolution.

The resolution was unanimously agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the first resolving clause, the Chair appoints the Senators from Texas [Mr. Yarborough and Mr. Tower] to join the committee appointed on the part of the House of Representatives to attend the funeral.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. LONG of Louisiana. Mr. President, I move that, as a further mark of respect to the memory of the deceased, Representative ALBERT THOMAS, of Texas, the Senate stand in adjournment until 12 o'clock noon tomorrow.

The motion was unanimously agreed to; and (at 6 o'clock and 16 minutes p.m.) the Senate adjourned until tomorrow, Thursday, February 17, 1966, at 12 o'clock meridian.

REMARKS BY SENATOR RALPH W. YARBOROUGH

OF TEXAS

Mr. YARBOROUGH. Mr. President, I regret that an engagement in Illinois prevented my being present yesterday on the floor of the Senate when the Senate agreed to a resolution concerning the late Congressman ALBERT THOMAS, offered by my distinguished colleague from Texas, on behalf of himself and me.

Representative THOMAS was a close friend of mine and I have always held the highest respect for his abilities, accomplishments and character. It was with great regret that I learned of the death of this distinguished Texas Congressman who honorably served the best interest of his district and his country. Texas has never had a better congressman in Washington.

His positions on powerful House committees allowed him to use his capabilities to further the progress of this Nation, and with strong devotion and sincere dedication he served with distinction for more than 29 years.

It is with great sorrow and deep sympathy for ALBERT THOMAS' family that I assume the honor of being a representative of Congress at the funeral of this great man.

MEMORIAL TRIBUTES
TO
ALBERT THOMAS

TRIBUTE BY HON. JOE L. EVINS

OF TENNESSEE

Mr. Speaker, at the request of Director Leland J. Haworth, Director of the National Science Foundation, I request unanimous consent that a tribute to the memory of the Honorable ALBERT THOMAS, our beloved colleague, be reprinted in the Appendix of the Record.

The tribute, in the form of a letter, follows:

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION,
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR,
Washington, D.C., February 15, 1966.

Hon. JOE L. EVINS,
House of Representatives,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR MR. EVINS: In common with all who knew him, we at the National Science Foundation are saddened today to learn of the passing of ALBERT THOMAS. His loss will be felt deeply by the scientific community and by the people of the United States for whom he worked so devotedly.

I personally came to know, admire, and respect Mr. THOMAS as a great public servant and as a warm and considerate personality through my relations with the Joint Committee on Atomic Energy, of which he was a member, and later with the Independent Offices Subcommittee of the Committee on Appropriations which he chaired. He demanded the highest standards of public servants, while meeting these standards himself in every way. He was rigorous in his demands, but he was always fair, and he was always receptive to new ideas that might make the Government more responsive to the needs of the people it serves.

The high esteem in which he was held by the Foundation is attested to by the fact that upon the 15th anniversary of the Foundation and the 100th meeting of the National Science Board last May, the Board presented him with a certificate in grateful acknowledgment of the indebtedness of the Foundation and the American people to him for his vision and his help in making the Foundation a more effective instrument to serve the national purpose.

Today we honor his memory. His State, his Nation, and his countrymen are the better for his great accomplishments on their behalf.

Sincerely,

LELAND J. HAWORTH,
Director.

TRIBUTE BY SENATOR RALPH W. YARBOROUGH

OF TEXAS

Mr. President, Congressman ALBERT THOMAS served my home State and his Houston district in the House of Representatives for nearly 30 years, and was one of the most respected and talented Representatives that has ever been elected to Congress.

His death Tuesday, February 15, 1966, leaves a vacant place in the hearts of every Texan, for this devoted man had earned the warm friendship of all of Texas, not just his home district. ALBERT THOMAS was one of those Representatives with very unusual abilities who was quietly successful in his duties.

Seldom did he claim the public limelight with his remarkable accomplishments, but often he succeeded with quiet determination and able work behind the scenes.

His reliable talents and responsible voice will be missed both in the Congress of the United States and in my home State of Texas; a man of his principles and ability does not pass from the scene without notice, but is remembered far past his time, for his accomplishments extend into the future and his character is an example without limitations. Texas has never sent an abler Congressman to Washington.

ALBERT THOMAS was my best friend in the Texas congressional delegation. He constantly did things over and beyond the call of duty and beyond the call of friendship. In 1964, sick unto death, after major surgery a number of times for cancer, he arose from a sick bed, of course, without any request from me to a man so ill, and campaigned his district day after day for my reelection to the Senate. He thought I was in danger. It is characteristic of the man that he arose from a sick bed, without requests for his aid, to speak all day long on my behalf at rally after rally.

To his dear wife Lera Thomas, and his daughters, Mrs. Anne Lasater, and Miss Lera Thomas, he left a priceless legacy. ALBERT THOMAS was a man among men.

As a tribute to ALBERT THOMAS' long career I ask unanimous consent that the two front page articles from the Houston Chronicle of Tuesday, February 15, 1966, entitled "U.S. Representative ALBERT THOMAS, 67, Dies of Cancer; Powerful House Figure" and "L.B.J.: 'THOMAS Worked Hard, Served Well,'" along with the three articles on page 10 of that same issue entitled "Philosophy as Congressman," "He Shunned Social Whirl, Worked Hard, Kept Fit" and "Kennedy Praised THOMAS Night Before Assassination."

In addition I ask that articles be printed from the front page of the Houston Chronicle of Thursday, February 17, 1966, entitled "Johnsons Among D.C. Mourners," "His Family Greeted at Airport," and on page 6, "45 D.C. Officials To Be at Rites for Congressman THOMAS," and "THOMAS Memorial Is Passed by Texas House."

From the Wednesday, February 16, 1966, Houston Post, I ask unanimous consent that the three front-page articles entitled "Rites To Be Held Friday," "Houston Feels Loss of THOMAS," and "Death Leaves a Lonely Place" be printed along with "Folks Came First" on page 11, and "THOMAS Always for Houston, Harris Growth," "THOMAS' Death Dealt Texas Influence a Blow," and "Chamber of Commerce Praises THOMAS" from page 9.

In addition, I ask that the three editorials: "Ave Atque Vale, ALBERT THOMAS" from the Friday, February 18, 1966, Houston Chronicle, "ALBERT THOMAS Served Ably" from the Wednesday, February 16, 1966, Houston Post, and "Congressman ALBERT THOMAS" from the Wednesday, February 16, 1966, Houston Chronicle be printed at this point in the Record.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the Record, as follows:

[From the Houston (Tex.) Chronicle, Feb. 15, 1966]

U.S. REPRESENTATIVE ALBERT THOMAS, 67, DIES OF CANCER; POWERFUL HOUSE FIGURE—SERVED IN CONGRESS 30 YEARS

U.S. Representative ALBERT THOMAS, 67, of Houston, a powerful Member of Congress for 30 years, died of cancer at 4:08 a.m. (Houston time) today at his home in Washington.

His entire family was present when the end came after a lengthy illness.

At his bedside were his wife, Lera, and two daughters, Mrs. Edward A. Lasater, of Houston, and Miss Lera Thomas, a student at the University of Texas.

TREATED HERE RECENTLY

Only a few weeks ago THOMAS had undergone treatment in Methodist Hospital here, but he returned to Washington to take his place in the House. He had filed his candidacy in the May Democratic primary for reelection in the November general election.

THOMAS would have been 68 on April 12.

Death came to THOMAS at the pinnacle of his career.

THOMAS ranked No. 2 on the powerful House Appropriations Committee, on which he had served since 1941.

He was chairman of the Subcommittee on Independent Offices Appropriations, a member of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense, and a member of the Senate-House Joint Committee on Atomic Energy.

Few served longer in Congress than ALBERT THOMAS. At the time of his death, he ranked 11th in seniority among the 435 Members of the House and 8th among Democrats. THOMAS and W. R. Poage, of Waco, both of whom came to the House on January 3, 1937, were outranked in the Texas delegation only by Wright Patman and George Mahon.

THOMAS' death leaves the House divided between 291 Democrats and 140 Republicans, with 4 vacancies.

COULD DELIVER

Among his constituents, the tall Texan with the bow tie was a courtly charmer. He had a gift for gaging what the folks at home needed and wanted, and most of the time he was able to deliver—big.

One of his colleagues once said, with as much admiration as humor: "ALBERT has been a good pack rat for Houston."

His fattest plum for Houston was NASA's Manned Spacecraft Center. But the project that took most of his attention over the years was improvement of the Houston ship channel, which has made Houston the Nation's third largest port.

THOMAS was genial and generous. But as a guardian of the taxpayers' purse strings, he could be a stern and stingy country banker who often made enemies of favor-seeking colleagues.

OBSTACLE COURSE

Since 1949, he had headed the Appropriations Subcommittee on Independent Agencies, which scrutinizes the budget requests of 26 Government agencies. It became known as the Thomas Obstacle Course, and few bureaucrats emerged from it unshaken.

Once THOMAS leveled his gaze at a rebellious Budget Bureau Director and icily inquired: "Do you realize you're just a creature of Congress?"

From 1953 until 1964, THOMAS chaired the subcommittee handling all deficiency appropriations. This meant that any Government section running short of money before the end of the fiscal year had to get a nod from THOMAS for excess spending. These deficiency bills sometimes reached $3 billion a year.

The subcommittee was abolished early in 1964 by the Appropriations Committee chairman, the late Clarence Cannon, of Missouri. It was a considerable triumph for Cannon, who through the years had lost many a battle with THOMAS over fiscal matters. When THOMAS did lose to the Cannon forces on the Appropriations Committee, he usually rectified the loss by going to the floor of the House and persuading his colleagues to overrule the committee action and back the THOMAS position.

BEHIND SCENES MAN

In all his years in Congress, THOMAS never sponsored a major piece of legislation that bore his name. His major role in Congress was handling the huge appropriations bills each year. Many of his legislative triumphs were in the form of amendments to other bills. His genius lay in his ability to work behind the scenes to get things done for Houston.

ALBERT THOMAS rarely spoke on the floor of the House except when managing bills by his committees. But on those occasions he proved to be an adroit and shrewd debater.

His manner was calculated to disarm. He would prop his glasses on top of his head, drape an arm around the microphone and soft-soap the opposition trying to kill his bill. When he referred to a colleague in debate, THOMAS always went protocol one better by using two complimentary adjectives, such as "our able and genial friend from Iowa."

FIRE ACHESON

But he could be bullish in anger.

In 1951, he demanded that President Truman fire Secretary of State Dean Acheson, declaring that Acheson "should have quit or been fired long ago."

A year later, when Truman blasted one of THOMAS' economy amendments (perhaps Truman remembered when THOMAS' subcommittee lopped off more than $734 million from his 1950 budget), THOMAS fired back:

"This is just another example of hasty, ill-considered action. It seems to be his (Truman's) pattern to needle Congress every time his budget is cut."

FOUGHT BOTH PARTIES

THOMAS' concern over wasteful spending was never partisan. While he warred with President Eisenhower over what he called tight money policies and foreign aid give-away he could with full conscience lead the fight to kill President Kennedy's $568 million fallout shelter program.

Before medicare became a household word, THOMAS was saying: "If the

problem of big medical bills proves too big for the medical profession to solve by itself, the pressure of Congress to do something will be irresistible."

THOMAS concealed behind his carefully cultivated air of moderate southern conservatism a strongly liberal voting record.

The Conservative Americans for Constitutional Action, which began compiling vote scorecards in 1957, gave THOMAS a cumulative rating of 14 percent.

RATED LIBERAL

The Americans for Democratic Action, a liberal group, gave THOMAS an 80 percent for the 88th Congress and a 77 percent for the 2d session. THOMAS did well with the ADA because he supported the Democratic administration, which ADA uses as its guideline.

He was, in the truest sense, a masterful politician. He voted for the workingman, well aware that from the beginning his strongest support came from the labor unionists who toil in Houston's massive industrial complex.

But for 21 years, when he represented all of Harris County, THOMAS also had surprising support from Houston's businessmen, bankers, oilmen, and cattle barons. They might have frowned a bit about his liberal leaning, but that was all. The benefits he reaped for Houston in Washington were sweet balms that came with blissful regularity.

In 1958, when Harris County was divided into two congressional districts, THOMAS chose to represent his "podnahs" in the shops and plants north of Buffalo Bayou. He didn't change his style though. Why tinker with a good thing?

THOMAS' routine vote every year against foreign aid was, in a sense, his annual public statement to the Texans back home that he was, in truth, a southern conservative and not a northern liberal.

ROOTS STAY HOME

Although he made several trips abroad, his interest in foreign affairs was minimal. His roots were sunk in rural America.

His father ran a general store in Nacogdoches, where ALBERT THOMAS was born on April 12, 1898. He came to Houston to attend college.

He used to say his political tendencies began to show in his days at Rice Institute. "I was a great handshaker," he would say, and then ruefully admit that his grades were none too good.

It was the same at the University of Texas Law School. But he stopped shaking hands long enough to get a degree by 1923.

He returned to Nacogdoches, became one of the best opossum hunters in the county and was elected county attorney. THOMAS prosecuted dozens of murder cases and sent several men to the electric chair. He married his childhood sweetheart, Lera Millard.

He came to Houston in 1930 when he was appointed an assistant U.S. attorney.

In 1936, ALBERT THOMAS agreed to run for Congress at the urging of

three newspapermen. He was 38, a comparative unknown with little money. But he shook hands and won a runoff spot against Houston's wily mayor, Oscar Holcombe.

SHOOK HOLCOMBE

In the runoff, THOMAS defeated Holcombe 33,866 to 25,021. Holcombe though he went on to serve 11 terms as the city's mayor, never again sought higher office.

The margin of THOMAS' upset victory was virtually 100-percent support from the labor bloc north of Buffalo Bayou.

As a freshman on the House Labor Committee, THOMAS was instrumental in strengthening the minimum wage hour bill by putting an additional 1 million persons under its provisions.

In 1941, he was the only Texan in the House to vote against the Smith antistrike bill, declaring, "The Smith bill reflects a deep distrust and dislike for people who work." His fellow Texan in the House, Lyndon Johnson, voted for the bill.

On the other hand, THOMAS could say of John L. Lewis: "He has defied the Government for his own selfish gains."

During his third term, THOMAS voted with the Roosevelt administration 10 times; against it 8 times.

He had his differences with Truman, but became a trusted friend and adviser to Kennedy and then Johnson.

CLOUDY FORECAST

Sometimes his crystal ball was cloudy. In 1937 he assured Texans: "A third term is the farthest thing from President Roosevelt's mind."

In 1937, he declared: "Keep a cool head and quit talking war and we won't get in it. We don't have to get in it. Europe has enough manpower now."

But in August of 1941, THOMAS came uncomfortably close to prophecy when he said:

"There will be a showdown, possible within 3 weeks, between this Nation and Japan. There may be some shooting with the U.S. Navy taking part."

In 1945, a reporter asked him if he thought an atomic bombing would make conventional invasion of Japan unnecessary. "Who ever heard of a foot of any land being taken and held by an airplane?" he asked.

A year later, he warned that Russia and the United States would someday vie in the world's greatest arms race.

In 1947, he said all four major powers ought to get out of Germany. "If you leave the Germans to their own devices," he said, "They'll take care of the Russians."

He later called for rearming Germany and Japan and warned:

"We can't stop communism with American dollars. The only language that Russia understands is that of strength and preparedness. The way to stop communism is to have a mighty air force that can strike at Russia's back door from aircraft carriers."

But THOMAS, who served as a lieutenant in World War I, felt that civilians should control the military.

He had a deep distrust of the military both as money wasters and as potentially dangerous to democratic institutions.

LEADS TO NASA

His espousal of the NASA concept of space exploration and his steady support of the agency grew out of his personal determination to keep space research in civilian hands.

His consistent opposition to a mass fallout shelter program was based not only on what he considered its excessive cost, but also his opposition to the use of shelters as a tool of military offense, as conceived by Pentagon planners.

He said of the Supreme Court's 1954 desegregation decision:

"I think the decision is a good one. In moderation, the problem can be worked out."

In 1956, when testing of the High Court's decision began to cause friction between the races, THOMAS declared, "I suggest the NAACP immediately go fishing. Yes, it would be worth while for all of us to go fishing."

He liked cool heads. "Sway a little, bend a little, and be courteous," he once told a younger colleague.

In 1959, he was the only Congressman from 11 Southern States to vote against the stringent Landrum-Griffin labor reform bill.

VOTED CIVIL RIGHTS

In the last session of the 88th Congress, THOMAS supported the administration throughout and voted on final passage of the tax cut, the civil rights bill, and the poverty program.

After that, he did not want to run for reelection.

That April he called one of the Chronicle's Washington reporters to his Cleveland Park home. He said:

"If I live until the end of the term, I will be 67, and will have served 30 years. I'm not a healthy person. I have to take a handful of pills every day of the week. It wouldn't be fair for me to run again."

CANCER

Then he explained that he had had three operations for cancer.

Expressions of regret flowed in, from President Kennedy on down to the working man north of Buffalo Bayou.

But by late June, his doctors' reports were optimistic and THOMAS was feeling better. President Kennedy and Vice President Johnson were eloquent in their insistence that he return to Congress.

Since Speaker Sam Rayburn's death in 1961, no one had been able to coordinate the Texas delegation, which can be powerful when held together. Kennedy and Johnson felt THOMAS could handle the job if he took an interest in it.

THOMAS was still taking a "wait and see" attitude when he and other members of the Texas delegation accompanied President Kennedy to Texas late in November 1963. The purpose of the trip was to gage Kennedy's popularity in Texas and to try to shore up the differences between the feuding State Democrats.

On the plane trip to Houston, Kennedy asked THOMAS to help him mend the rift between the Texans and THOMAS agreed to try. On the night of November 21, THOMAS heard the young President praise him before thousands attending a testimonial dinner in THOMAS' honor.

ASSASSINATION

The next day in Dallas, THOMAS was in the motorcade when President Kennedy was shot.

And he stood near Lyndon Johnson in Air Force 1 when Johnson was sworn in as the 36th President of the United States.

After the shock of the assassination wore off, THOMAS put duty above self. He put the cancer that haunted him out of his mind and filed for his 15th term.

"If the folks want me to run," he said, "I'll run."

He won easily over his Republican and Constitution Party opponents.

He had planned to spend Christmas in Houston, but he was home only 2 weeks when the old trouble flared again.

On December 9, he flew to the naval hospital at Bethesda, Md., for treatment.

RICE SCIENCE CHAIR

It was while he was preparing for this treatment that H. Malcolm Lovett, vice chairman of the Rice University board of governors, announced the establishment of the ALBERT THOMAS chair of political science.

Mrs. Thomas was here to acknowledge the university's recognition of her husband.

Out of the hospital and back in action, THOMAS on January 21 introduced a resolution in the House commending President Johnson for his efforts in limiting the spread of nuclear weapons around the world.

Two days later, THOMAS announced he would be a candidate for reelection this year. A week before, President Johnson personally had urged THOMAS to run again, saying he needed THOMAS' advice and counsel.

"With those thoughts in mind" THOMAS said, "I am offering my service again to my people for another 2 years."

[From the Houston (Tex.) Chronicle, Feb. 15, 1966]

L.B.J.: "THOMAS WORKED HARD, SERVED WELL"

WASHINGTON.—Flags of official Washington dipped to half-staff today to mark the death of Representative ALBERT THOMAS as President Johnson led Government officials in eulogizing the powerful Houston Congressman.

The Chief Executive saluted THOMAS, a longtime friend, for his "devotion to the people he served and loyalty to his friends," and said "his death leaves a lonely place in the lives of those who knew him best."

Mr. Johnson's sentiments were contained in a statement issued by the White House shortly after word of THOMAS' passing reached the President.

The statement said:

"Of the qualities that made ALBERT THOMAS a remarkable man, devotion to the people he served and loyalty to his friends, stand higher than all.

"I knew him—and knew him well—for a long time. He loved Houston and the Congress of the United States.

"He worked hard. He served well.

"His death leaves a lonly place in the lives of those who knew him best."

[From the Houston (Tex.) Chronicle, Feb. 15, 1966]

PHILOSOPHY AS CONGRESSMAN

ALBERT THOMAS respected power and he knew how to use it in the Halls of Congress.

From his committee posts, he was in a position to grant and extract favors in agencies ranging from the Federal Communications Commission, the Civil Aeronautics Board, and the Interstate Commerce Commission, through the Securities and Exchange Commission and the General Services Administration.

Philosophically, from his voting record in recent years, THOMAS had to be considered a liberal. The liberal Americans for Democratic Action (ADA) consistently gave him high marks in its voting index, while the conservative Americans for Constitutional Action rated him zero or close to it.

But he pleased his Houston constituency and economizers elsewhere by his careful scrutiny of budget requests of independent agencies. Except possibly in the field of space, bureaucrats had to justify their requests down to the penny. He was Congress' leading supporter of manned space exploration.

THOMAS was one of a handful of Texans and southerners who voted for the 1964 Civil Rights Act. His vote delighted liberals. But he also pleased conservative businessmen, many of whom supported the $11.5 billion tax cut bill that same year, by his support of that measure.

On matters of fiscal policy, THOMAS was not a down-the-line conservative, however. He drew the displeasure of business when he voted in 1962 for a bill closing tax loopholes for corporations and individuals.

In foreign policy, THOMAS generally followed the Democratic Party line. He supported the foreign policies of Presidents Kennedy and Johnson, including their requests for foreign aid.

[From the Houston (Tex.) Chronicle, Feb. 15, 1966]

THOMAS HAD TALENT FOR FRIENDSHIP—HE SHUNNED SOCIAL WHIRL, WORKED HARD, KEPT FIT

Before cancer weakened him, ALBERT THOMAS had the reputation of being "boss" of the House of Representatives gymnasium.

It was his daily routine, until he was 61, to keep fit with a round of handball and rowing machine work.

THOMAS shunned the Washington social circuit, and frequently remained in his office late at night doing the "homework" for which he was so noted.

It was done so thoroughly that it was a brave Congressman who tried to trip him on facts about a bill THOMAS was handling.

THOMAS had his private offices on the second floor of the Cannon House Office Building, oldest of three structures housing House Member offices. His was an old-fashioned, rather dark room cluttered with black leather, overstuffed furniture.

Photographs covered the walls. Most of them were of past and present members of the Texas congressional delegation—most of them autographed—and of his grandchildren.

One of his favorites was a photo of his grandson vested as an acolyte of the Episcopal Church.

But THOMAS regularly spent most of his day in the office of the Independent Agencies Subcommittee, a two-room affair on the ground floor of the House side of the Capitol.

The committee room itself was filled largely by an enormous table around which subcommittee members and their witnesses sat. In session time the table was usually heaped with bound volumes of the committee's working papers. In a corner was a telephone booth where THOMAS took private phone calls.

Adjacent to the subcommittee room is the chairman's private office, furnished with a desk and easy chairs. This was where THOMAS frequently repaired for conferences with close associates and favorite newsmen. Unlike his personal office, which was staffed by women, the subcommittee chambers were a strictly male preserve.

THOMAS and his wife had a wide circle of friends in Washington, and they preferred to entertain at home. They lived at 2901 34th Street NW., in a fashionable section called Cleveland Park. The house is a two-story, red brick colonial-type home, located on a small corner lot.

Some of THOMAS' neighbors included Attorney General Nicholas Katzenbach, Comptroller General Joseph Campbell, Navy Secretary Paul H. Nitze, Mrs. John Foster Dulles, and Columnist Walter Lippmann.

THOMAS' favorite Sunday night supper was a bowl of chili. He liked to serve guests tamales made in Texas.

[From the Houston (Tex.) Chronicle, Feb. 15, 1966]

KENNEDY PRAISED THOMAS NIGHT BEFORE ASSASSINATION

The night before John Kennedy was killed, he praised ALBERT THOMAS as a man "old enough to dream dreams and young enough to see visions."

In a testimonial to THOMAS here on the night of November 21, 1963, the 35th President of the United States declared:

"We meet here tonight to pay tribute to one of the most valuable Mem-

bers of Congress, ALBERT THOMAS, of Texas. For many years I have been proud to call him my friend, a source of reliable help and responsible advice.

"And when I read in the press that he felt the time had come for the retirement his many years of labor so richly deserve, I personally called AL THOMAS and asked him to give up his retirement for the good of the country. For this man is, in many ways, one of the most remarkable Members of Congress."

[From the Houston (Tex.) Chronicle, Feb. 17, 1966]

REPRESENTATIVE THOMAS' BODY FLOWN HOME BY AIR FORCE—JOHNSONS AMONG DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA MOURNERS

(By Charles Culhane)

WASHINGTON.—A light rain fell from a leaden sky as the friends of Congressman ALBERT THOMAS paid their last respects to him at a funeral service in Washington Wednesday.

President Lyndon B. Johnson and Mrs. Johnson were among the mourners at the service in the Bethlehem Chapel of the Washington National Cathedral, at 11 a.m., Wednesday.

The body of the Congressman was in a casket draped with an American flag in front of the altar in the arched chapel.

A wreath of red, white, and blue carnations from President Johnson stood to the right of the casket. The altar was decked with bunches of white roses, white chrysanthemums and white stock.

The Very Reverend Francis B. Sayre, Jr., the dean of the National Cathedral, presided at the service reading the "Office for the Burial of the Dead" from the Episcopal Book of Common Prayer.

Mrs. Lera Millard Thomas, the wife of the Congressman, Mrs. Anne Lasater and Miss Lera Thomas, his two daughters, sat in a pew in front of the chapel across the aisle from the pew where President and Mrs. Johnson sat.

A group of eight uniformed Capitol Hill policemen wearing white gloves acted as pallbearers at the funeral service. The chapel was filled to capacity.

The funeral procession went directly from the National Cathedral to Andrews Air Force Base near Washington where an Air Force plane was waiting to bear the body back to Houston. The plane took off at 1:10 p.m., e.s.t.

Meanwhile, several hours after the body of the Congressman left Washington for the last time, Senator John G. Tower, Republican, of Texas, offered a formal speech of condolence on the Senate floor.

Senator Tower made the speech in the absence of Senator Ralph Yarborough, Democrat, of Texas, his senior colleague, who was in Illinois to make a speech. The Senate adjourned in honor of THOMAS after Tower spoke.

"Despite his influence and interest in national affairs, he always remembered best his own constituency, laboring long and hard in behalf of the Houston area, its people and their interests," Tower said.

"Support for Congressman THOMAS came from all quarters—labor, industry, business, banking, shipping, farming, ranching, and many others.

"Houston, the State of Texas, and the country are indeed better off as a result of Congressman THOMAS' service. His constituents, his State, and his country will all miss him."

[From the Houston (Tex.) Chronicle, Feb. 17, 1966]

REPRESENTATIVE THOMAS' BODY FLOWN HOME BY AIR FORCE—HIS FAMILY GREETED AT AIRPORT

(By Bob Lee)

Congressman ALBERT THOMAS returned home to Houston to stay Wednesday.

The Air Force C–118 carrying his body touched down at Houston International Airport at 6:25 p.m. Five minutes later it came to rest at the gate 13 parking ramp.

Mayor Louie Welch, Police Chief Herman Short, and several other city and county officials were there to meet him.

He was accompanied home by his wife, Mrs. Thomas, their two daughters, Miss Lera Thomas and Mrs. Anne Lasater, of Brazil, his secretary, Rose Zamaria, and two committee aids, Homer Skarin and Keith Mainland.

THOMAS, 67, who served Houston for 28 years, died Tuesday in his Washington home after a lengthy and characteristically stubborn struggle with cancer.

Funeral services will be at 2 p.m. Friday in the First Methodist Church of Houston.

The burial will be at the Veterans' Administration Cemetery at Steubner and Airline Roads.

An honor guard and pallbearers from Fort Sam Houston will pay last respects to THOMAS, a tall man who cast a long shadow in the U.S. Congress.

He will lie in state at Settegast-Kopf Funeral Home, 3320 Kirby.

A small crowd watched as the flag-draped bronze casket was lowered by a forklift from the nose of the plane.

Many of the people had been waiting for more than an hour.

They represented several nationalities and ethnic groups.

"He was a friend to all of us," said a Negro woman.

Mayor and Mrs. Welch were the first to meet Mrs. Thomas, a small woman dressed in plain black.

Other officials crowded around.

There was very little said other than: "I'm so sorry. He was a great man."

"Thank you."

The family was escorted to black limousines.

At 6:45 p.m., the casket was lowered and taken between tall rows of 20 fire department and 14 police department honor guardsmen who stood at attention in white-gloved salute.

The light of a flashing rotating red beacon atop a police car cast shadows on their faces.

The casket was placed into a Settegast-Kopf limousine. A procession of 10 black cars, escorted by motorcycles went down the Gulf Freeway to Milan, then out Milan to the Southwest Freeway to Kirby.

Officials at Settegast-Kopf said they expected "hundreds" to pay their last respects to THOMAS, Thursday and Friday mornings.

There are no restrictions as to hours persons may pay their last respects at the funeral home, officials said.

Six pallbearers, an eight-man rifle honor squad, and a bugler from Fort Sam Houston will pay the last tribute to THOMAS.

On Friday, beginning at noon, Roland Pomerat, Rice University carillonneur, will play a special half-hour memorial concert in honor of the distinguished Rice alumnus. It will be played on the 72-bell Rice electronic carillon in Rice memorial chapel on campus.

Dr. Charles Allen, pastor at First Methodist, will officiate at the services, which will be televised by KTRK–TV.

A 50-Member delegation from the U.S. House of Representatives—including most if not all of the Texas delegation—and several Members of the Senate are expected to attend the services. Hundreds of the Congressman's friends and constituents are also expected.

First Methodist seats about 2,500 persons. Officials said those unable to be seated will be able to hear the service through a public address system.

THOMAS will be buried in a special plot set aside for him.

Hundreds of persons—including President Johnson—praised THOMAS for his work in the Congress.

As the flag-draped casket was carried from the forklift to the waiting limousine, a small boy bundled in a big coat asked:

"Who's that, Grandpa?"

The old man looked down at him, "A man, son. A man."

[From the Houston (Tex.) Chronicle, Feb. 17, 1966]

FORTY-FIVE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA OFFICIALS TO BE AT RITES FOR CONGRESSMAN THOMAS

WASHINGTON.—A group of more than 45 Washington officials, including most of the Texans in Congress, were scheduled to go to Houston Friday to attend the funeral of Congressman ALBERT THOMAS.

A spokesman for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration said James E. Webb, the head of the space agency, will be among them. He was a close personal friend of the veteran Houston legislator.

The Congressmen are scheduled to fly to Houston by a special Air Force jet leaving Andrews Air Force Base near Washington about 10 a.m., e.s.t., Friday, and arriving in Houston about 12:30 p.m., c.s.t.

The Texans in Congress who are to attend the funeral are:

Senators Ralph Yarborough and John G. Tower; Representatives Bob Casey, Houston; Joe Pool, Dallas; Wright Patman, Texarkana; Jack Brooks, Beaumont; Lindley Beckworth, Gladewater; Ray Roberts, McKinney; Earle Cabell, Dallas.

Also, John Dowdy, Athens; Clark Thompson, Galveston; J. J. (Jake) Pickle, Austin; W. R. (Bob) Poage, Waco; Jim Wright, Fort Worth; Graham Purcell, Wichita Falls.

Also, John Young, Corpus Christi; Eligio (Kika) de la Garza, Mission; Richard C. White, El Paso; Omar Burleson, Anson; Walter Rogers, Pampa; George H. Mahon, Lubbock; Henry B. Gonzalez, San Antonio; and O. C. Fisher, San Angelo.

Congressman Olin E. Teague, of College Station, will be unable to attend the funeral because he is on an inspection trip in the Far East.

A number of former colleagues of Congressman THOMAS on the House Appropriations Committee also have been delegated to attend the funeral. They are:

Representatives Michael J. Kirwan, Democrat, of Ohio; Jamie L. Whitten, Democrat, of Mississippi; John J. Rooney, Democrat, of New York; John E. Fogarty, Democrat, of Rhode Island; Joe L. Evins, Democrat, of Tennessee; Otto E. Passman, Democrat, of Louisiana; Tom Steed, Democrat, of Oklahoma; Frank T. Bow, Republican, of Ohio.

Also, Edward P. Boland, Democrat, of Massachusetts; Charles R. Jonas, Republican, of North Carolina; Melvin R. Laird, Republican, of Wisconsin; John J. Rhodes, Republican, of Arizona; Daniel J. Flood, Democrat, of Pennsylvania; Winfield K. Denton, Democrat, of Indiana; William E. Minshall, Republican, of Ohio; Robert N. Giaimo, Democrat, of Connecticut; Thomas G. Morris, Democrat, of New Mexico; and George E. Shipley, Democrat, of Illinois.

Several Members of the House who served with THOMAS on the Joint Committee on Atomic Energy also have been authorized to represent Congress at the funeral.

They are Representatives Chet Holifield, Democrat, of California; Melvin Price, Democrat, of Illinois; and Craig Hosmer, Republican, of California.

CITY RESOLUTION PRAISES THOMAS

Congressman ALBERT THOMAS "brought a keen mind, a strong character, and a sensitive appreciation of human problems to his position," a resolution of the Houston City Council said Wednesday.

It added that the veteran congressman "has thereby maintained a lofty plane of legislative and personal principle and ethics that has brought him the esteem and respect of members of his own beloved Democratic Party, the loyal opposition party and the American people in all sections of the land and of all political and philosophical persuasions."

[From the Houston (Tex.) Chronicle, Feb. 17, 1966]

THOMAS MEMORIAL IS PASSED BY TEXAS HOUSE

AUSTIN.—By unanimous vote Wednesday, the Texas House of Representatives passed and sent to the Senate a memorial resolution in honor of Congressman ALBERT THOMAS, who died Tuesday.

Speaker Ben Barnes then named the 12-member Harris County house delegation to represent the State at the longtime Congressman's funeral Friday in Houston.

The resolution passed by the house and which will pass the senate Thursday, was signed by all of the members.

It termed Congressman THOMAS "one of the great voices of the U.S. Congress" and drew attention to the fact that the Nacogdoches-born attorney attained eminence before seeking the congressional seat he held since 1937.

"Though all his years of service bore the mark of high statesmanship and moral courage, his last years were additionally distinguished by his personal courage. His indomitable spirit never flagged and he served his district and his Nation in illness and suffering with the same self-sacrificing devotion as had always been his wont."

The house adjourned in memory of and in tribute to the late Congressman.

Tuesday, the house passed a memorial resolution in honor of another Houstonian, William Lockhart Clayton, who died February 8.

He was instrumental in the development of Houston into a modern metropolis as well as being influential in national affairs.

"His visions of oil, cotton, sulfur, and the great Houston ship channel provided much of the alchemy for the success of the city, to which he devoted much of his time and money after moving there in 1917," the resolution said.

Clayton was cofounder of Anderson, Clayton & Co., the world's largest cotton firm. He was also the creator of the Marshall plan, generally acknowledged to be the greatest act of international generosity in history and which had its conception in a memo he jotted on the back of an envelope.

The longtime Houstonian never sought public office but exerted great influence on the political life of his times and held a number of high Federal posts.

The house also passed Wednesday a memorial resolution honoring H. E. Treichler of Houston, a leading figure in the Texas sulfur industry for nearly half a century. Treichler died recently. He was consultant director and a member of the Pan American Sulfur Co.'s executive committee.

[From the Houston (Tex.) Post, Feb. 16, 1966]

REPRESENTATIVE THOMAS' BODY TO BE FLOWN HOME TODAY—RITES TO BE HELD FRIDAY

(By Charles Culhane)

WASHINGTON.—The body of Congressman ALBERT THOMAS will be flown over Washington for the last time Wednesday as an Air Force plane bears him home to Houston.

THOMAS, 67, died in his home in Washington Tuesday after serving Houston for more than 28 years in Congress. He had suffered several years from cancer, although he carried on his work much of the time in spite of it.

The White House said President Johnson will attend a memorial service for THOMAS at 11 a.m. Wednesday in the Bethlehem Chapel of the Washington National Cathedral.

The funeral for THOMAS will be held at 2 p.m., Friday at the First Methodist Church of Houston, 1320 Main, and Dr. Charles L. Allen, pastor of the church, will preside.

Burial will be in the Veterans' Administration cemetery on Steubner Airline Road near Aldine Road, north of Houston, a cemetery for which THOMAS worked in Congress.

President Johnson may come to Houston for the funeral.

The President telephoned Mrs. Lera Millard Thomas, the Congressman's wife, Tuesday to express his sorrow, and Mrs. Johnson visited the Thomas home.

Mrs. Thomas and the couple's two daughters, Mrs. Anne Lasater and Miss Lera Thomas were with the Congressman when the end came about 5:15 a.m., Tuesday. He was in a coma at the time of death.

Mrs. Lasater, who lives in Brazil where her husband manages ranch properties, and Miss Thomas, who now lives in Houston, arrived in Washington during the past weekend to be with their father.

Mrs. Thomas and her two daughters will accompany the body of the veteran Houston lawmaker on the flight to Houston Wednesday.

Homer Skarin and Keith Mainland, long-time committee aids to the Congressman in the House, will be with the family on the Air Force plane.

The plane is scheduled to leave Andrews Air Force Base near Washington at 1 p.m., c.s.t. and arrive in Houston at 6:30 p.m., c.s.t.

American flags flew at half-staff all over Washington in honor of THOMAS Tuesday as his family and friends in the Capital mourned his passing.

THOMAS, who was noted for his hard-working habits as a Member of the House, had visited his office in Washington as recently as 2½ weeks before his death.

Dean Francis B. Sayre, the dean of the Washington National Cathedral, will preside at the service for the Congressman Wednesday.

A spokesman for the Veterans' Administration said THOMAS will be buried in a special plot on the mall of the cemetery.

The body is to lie in state at the Settegast-Kopf Funeral Home, 3320 Kirby Drive in Houston, Thursday until noon Friday.

Speaker of the House John W. McCormack, Democrat, of Massachusetts, said Tuesday he will name 50 Members of the House to attend THOMAS' funeral in Houston representing Congress.

Most of them will be members of the Texas delegation in the House and members of the House Appropriations Committee on which THOMAS served for many years.

Congressman Wright Patman, Democrat, of Texas, the dean of the Texas

delegation in Congress, said shortly after the House opened its session Tuesday, "It is my sad duty to announce the death of ALBERT THOMAS, of Texas." The House then adjourned until Wednesday in his memory.

THOMAS was not widely known outside of his home district in Texas, but Members of Congress and high officials of the executive branch of the Federal Government knew him as one of the most powerful and influential men on Capitol Hill.

He entered Congress in January 1937, and gradually climbed up the ranks of seniority until he was second-ranking member of the House Appropriations Committee. He was next in line to Congressman George Mahon, Democrat, of Texas, the chairman of the powerful committee which holds the purse strings of the Federal Government.

THOMAS was chairman of the House Subcommittee on Independent Offices Appropriations for several years.

As subcommittee chairman, THOMAS oversaw the spending of billions of dollars each year in Federal funds for such agencies as the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, the Securities and Exchange Commission, and the Federal Aviation Agency.

THOMAS is credited with being the prime mover in getting the Government to decide on locating the Manned Spacecraft Center in Houston although he sometimes jokingly deprecated his role in the matter saying "Oh, I was just the waterboy."

THOMAS was born in Nacogdoches, April 12, 1898, and he was graduated from Rice University with a bachelor of arts degree. He received his law degree from the University of Texas. He served in World War I and was discharged as a lieutenant.

[From the Houston (Tex.) Post, Feb. 16, 1966]

HOUSTON FEEL LOSS OF THOMAS

The loss of ALBERT THOMAS' skill and talent in Congress will be difficult to replace, leading Houstonians said Tuesday.

Gail Whitcomb, president of the chamber of commerce, called his death a tragic moment for Houstonians.

"We have lost one of our most capable and dedicated public servants," he said. "This man has been such an inspiration to so many that we must resolve to move forward with all the many things he has worked so hard so many years to accomplish.

"This is the way he would want it, and this is the way he has shown us, even up to the time of his death. We grieve, and yet we rejoice that we had him with us as a neighbor, a friend, and a public servant for so many years."

Mayor Louie Welch said: "Houston and Harris County have been beneficiaries of the great talent and energy of Representative THOMAS during a most crucial period of development and growth. His monuments in Houston extend from the flood control dams of Addicks and Barber to the Manned Spacecraft Center.

"I know all Houston joins Mrs. Thomas and the family in mourning the passing of a great citizen of Houston, Tex., and the Nation."

Federal Judge Allen S. Hannay said he considered THOMAS as one of the most valuable people in Texas since the death of Representative Sam Rayburn.

"He was the most valuable Congressman to Texas, and the most valuable citizen in Houston," the judge said. "I had quite a bit of correspondence with him in which I expressed myself along these lines. He [THOMAS] always thanked me most profusely."

Oveta Culp Hobby, chairman of the board and editor of the Houston Post, said:

"The statement that the people of Harris County are going to miss ALBERT THOMAS can be made with complete sincerity. Few congressional districts in the Nation have been served as ably.

"Yet in addition to a constant alertness to the needs and wishes of his constituency, he handled with great skill the financial needs of a wide range of national activities ranging from atomic energy to the welfare of veterans.

"He was a truly dedicated man, and the Nation could use more like him."

Robert R. Gilruth, Director of the Manned Spacecraft Center, said:

"I feel a deep sense of personal loss in the passing of Congressman ALBERT THOMAS. In our official work together he demonstrated always a keen insight into national affairs, and the ability to unerringly support the proper program at the proper time. Our Nation will greatly miss his wisdom and guidance."

William N. Blanton, Sr., who is in his 14th year as a member of the port commission and served for 22 years as executive vice president and general manager of the chamber of commerce, said:

"I think Houston and Harris County have lost an eminent Congressman whose contributions have been outstanding. He was a popular and greatly beloved man and we're going to miss him. He has been a great factor in the building and development of our great port."

Dr. Philip G. Hoffman, president of the University of Houston, said few Members of the Congress "have ever served with the dedication and effectiveness of ALBERT THOMAS."

"His remarkable knowledge of government and of the needs of his district was matched only by his willingness and ability to meet those needs," Hoffman said. "The University of Houston, with other institutions and the citizens of this area, was much in Congressman THOMAS' debt. Texas and the Nation are poorer with his passing."

U.S. Attorney Woodrow Seals said: "The worth of ALBERT THOMAS to the people of Harris County will not be fully realized for years to come."

William P. Hobby, Jr., executive editor of the Houston Post, said:

"Houston, Texas, and the Nation have suffered a grievous loss with the passing of ALBERT THOMAS. He represented his district and State ably. As the second-ranking member of the Appropriations Committee, he was one

of the best informed Members of the Congress on the workings of the executive branch.

"He always used his great knowledge in the interest of the Nation."

City Councilman Lee McLemore said THOMAS' death was "the passing of a rare breed of politician," adding: "We will miss his force and drive for the people of our Nation, especially in Houston. His handshake and smile were his bond."

City Councilman Frank Mann, who supported THOMAS in his first race for Congress 30 years ago, recalled THOMAS' first campaign speech.

"He was to speak in Baytown and he was afraid his opponent (former Mayor Oscar Holcombe) was much stronger there," Mann said. "He got up to talk and some old boy hollered, 'Pour it on, Horsefly,' and ALBERT knew he was on home ground. That was his nickname up in Nacogdoches and Lufkin."

Mann remembered that THOMAS called him in Austin in 1937, when Mann was in the legislature, and asked him to check on "that young man who was running for Congress." Mann checked and predicted the young man—Lyndon B. Johnson—would win. He did.

District Judge William M. Holland said the public had suffered "a great loss."

"THOMAS always served his constituents. He was a very intelligent congressman," Holland said. "People have always said that no matter what they wrote him about they always got very prompt answers."

District Judge Sam W. Davis, a friend of THOMAS for 35 years, said he considered THOMAS "one of the great congressmen in the country."

"The greatest thing of many great things he did for Houston and Harris County was getting NASA here," Judge Davis said. "His passing will be an irreparable loss to the people of Houston and Harris County."

County Judge Bill Elliott said:

"It's doubtful any Congressman—any Congressman—ever contributed more to the economic and cultural growth of his district than did ALBERT THOMAS. He will not be able to be replaced."

Dr. S. M. Nabrit, president of Texas Southern University, said:

"I considered ALBERT THOMAS not only our Congressman but a personal friend. On my very, very first day on the campus of Texas Southern University, he made it his business to come out and visit me and let me know he was my Representative in Washington. Since that time he has left no stone unturned to do everything possible for our university and the Negro people in the 22d and 8th Congressional Districts.

"In other words, he has served the entire Houston community without any respect to district boundary lines."

James W. White, professor of English at TSU and new president of the Houston Business and Professional Men's Club, said, "We all regret very much the passing of this great man. His loss will be felt by all."

Don McCullar, business manager of the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees Local 1550, and a candidate for president of the Harris County AFL–CIO, said:

"We're just shocked and deeply grieved to learn of the passing of this great American. He has stood out as a truly dedicated public servant who represented people in all walks of life with equal sincerity. The working people of Harris County and Texas have lost one of the greatest friends they've ever had."

City Councilman Johnny Goyen said: "Harris County and the Nation have lost one of the great men of our times."

Councilman Robert S. (Bob) Webb said THOMAS was "a great statesman whose weight and influence in behalf of Houston, of Texas, and the Nation will be greatly missed."

Councilman A. L. (Curly) Miller said: "He served well; he did a wonderful job."

County Commissioner W. Kyle Chapman said:

"It's a great loss to the entire Nation, especially Harris County. I know of no one who has worked longer and harder and more diligently than ALBERT THOMAS, keeping in mind at all times the welfare of the entire Nation."

Commissioner E. A. (Squatty) Lyons said, "It's very regrettable to see such a fine man leave this life at a comparatively early age."

Commissioner V. V. Ramsey called THOMAS a "great American" who has "probably done this city more good than any other man."

Judge Spurgeon E. Bell of the First Court of Civil Appeals said, "Texas, and particularly Harris County, has lost a very distinguished, capable, and valuable public servant."

George E. Pletcher, Houston attorney, called it "a powerful loss."

"Congressman THOMAS was admired, loved, and respected by all who knew him," McKaskle said. "His career in Congress was 30 years of devotion and service to the friends he loved so much. He was a powerful influence in many circles of Government and through this he was able to do much for the Houston area. We will miss his wisdom and the unusual ability he possessed in getting the job done."

Royal H. Roussel, staff associate of the Houston Chamber of Commerce, formerly stationed in Washington in that job, said:

"I've known ALBERT THOMAS a very long time. He was one of the really great ones. Houston and the country have suffered a tremendous loss."

A number of others called for comment were out of town and unavailable.

[From the Houston (Tex.) Post, Feb. 16, 1966]

LEADERS PRAISE THOMAS: "DEATH LEAVES LONELY PLACE"

WASHINGTON.—President Johnson, paying tribute Tuesday to Congressman ALBERT THOMAS, called him a remarkable man who worked hard and served well.

"Of the qualities that made ALBERT THOMAS a remarkable man," Mr. Johnson said, "devotion to the people he served and loyalty to his friends stand higher than all.

"I knew him—and knew him well—for a long time. He loved Houston and the Congress of the United States. He worked hard. He served well. His death leaves a lonely place in the lives of those who knew him best."

Many Government leaders and fellow Members of Congress also praised THOMAS.

"The loss of ALBERT THOMAS was a very sad one," said House Speaker John W. McCormack, Democrat, of Massachusetts. "He was a bulwark of strength in serving the people of our country. His passing is a great loss to the Congress and to the country as a whole."

A new Cabinet member, with whom THOMAS had had a long association in his capacity as chairman of the Independent Offices Subcommittee of the House Appropriations Committee, called THOMAS "one of the most forceful and respected leaders in Congress."

Continuing, Robert C. Weaver, Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, said: "His mastery of the appropriations process and his intimate understanding of the programs he reviewed was second to none. We will miss his responsible counsel."

Administrator James E. Webb, of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, one of the 19 independent agencies whose appropriations requests are heard by THOMAS' subcommittee, said:

"His friends in NASA who mourn his loss extend from coast to coast."

The idea of bringing industries and universities into the space program, instead of making it entirely a Government project, "was one of his dreams, and it has been brought to fulfillment in his lifetime," Webb said.

Senator Ralph W. Yarborough, Democrat, of Texas, termed THOMAS' death "the loss of one of Texas' greatest men in public life.

"His devotion to his constituency and his diligent work is seldom paralleled in public life," Yarborough said. "Texas has never had a better Congressman. He was my best friend in the Texas congressional delegation."

"ALBERT THOMAS was a dedicated and effective servant of his district and the entire State for more than 30 years," Senator John G. Tower, Republican, of Texas, said. "His leadership and wise counsel will be missed both in Texas and in Washington."

THOMAS' colleague from Harris County, Congressman Bob Casey, said the contributions of ALBERT THOMAS "to the growth of Houston and Harris County are visible at every turn of the road * * *. He will indeed be missed not only by the people of Houston but by the Nation as a whole."

House Majority Leader Carl Albert, Democrat, of Oklahoma, called THOMAS "one of the most effective and articulate Members of the House of Representatives. He was a friend of mine who befriended me in many ways. We have lost a great American and one of the outstanding Members of Congress of all time."

House Democratic Whip Hale Boggs, Democrat, of Louisiana, said:

"In the face of great pain and suffering for almost a decade, ALBERT THOMAS worked tirelessly on for the benefit of his State and our Nation.

"In the last decade of his life," Boggs continued, "Houston entered its

greatest era of advancement—a truly fantastic period of growth and prosperity.

"This thriving and progressive city of today is a living monument to ALBERT THOMAS. It was he who launched Houston into its finest hour."

Congressman George Mahon, Democrat, of Texas, chairman of the House Appropriations Committee, noted that THOMAS over the years handled some of the Nation's most important legislation.

Congressman Clark W. Thompson, of Galveston: "I am shocked and grieved to learn of the passing of my old friend.

[From the Houston (Tex.) Post, Feb. 16, 1966]

THOMAS ALWAYS HAD TIME: "FOLKS" CAME FIRST

(By Franklin Reed)

WASHINGTON.—It was November 20, 1945, and a 16-year-old Houston youth, in Washington to appear on a radio program, dropped by the office of Congressman ALBERT THOMAS.

Possibly, the young Houstonian thought, a busy Congressman could take 30 seconds to shake hands with someone from the old hometown.

The Congressman took 30 seconds to shake hands. Then he took 30 minutes to chat with his visitor in the office; another 30 minutes to take him to lunch—most memorable of all to the visitor—another 30 minutes to take him onto the floor of the House of Representatives to sit and listen, enraptured, as if he were a Congressman himself.

All this, when the visitor would have been sufficiently flattered with a simple handshake.

As much as anything, this was ALBERT THOMAS. He seemed to feel that nothing was too good for the home folks. The fact that one of them might be only 16 years old and couldn't vote didn't make a bit of difference to him.

And thus it is that a man who could easily be remembered for big things may come to be remembered more for little things—thousands of seemingly inconsequential acts, courtesies, and favors for the best people in the world to him, the residents of the Eighth Congressional District of Texas.

At his death, Houstonians in uncounted and uncountable numbers are probably calling forth some personal memory of the Congressman.

Maybe it was a lunch date, or a phone call, or a letter of congratulations or condolence, or an appointment to a service academy, or help in cutting through the redtape of Washington.

As they do this, this is their memory of ALBERT THOMAS.

The writers of the Constitution wanted the House of Representatives to be close to the people. THOMAS, though he had great power and prestige, which often make a man remote, never forgot this.

How is it that I know so much about that 16-year-old Houston youth? I was that youth.

[From the Houston Post, Feb. 16, 1966]

THOMAS WORKED ALWAYS FOR HOUSTON, HARRIS GROWTH—WATER BOY ON SPACECRAFT CENTER, HE SAID

The death of Congressman ALBERT THOMAS deprived Houston of one of its best friends.

The 67-year-old Congressman, at the time of his death one of the dozen most powerful men in the House of Representatives, is generally credited with getting the multimillion dollar Manned Spacecraft Center located at Houston.

A hard worker, jealous of his power but rarely one to sing self-praise, THOMAS described his role in the acquisition as "just the water boy." Others, though, said it was the biggest Federal plum in THOMAS' long career.

President Kennedy, the night before he was assassinated, paid homage to THOMAS as a statesman who helped steer Houston and the Nation into the space age.

"ALBERT THOMAS is a man young enough to dream dreams and old enough to see visions," said the President.

Only 10 other men now in the House have served longer in the House than THOMAS. Before his death, he was the second-ranking Democrat on the powerful Appropriations Committee.

For many years he was the chairman of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Independent Offices, which screened appropriation requests of all the independent agencies of Government such as the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, the Veterans' Administration, the Federal Power Commission, the Federal Aviation Agency, the Federal Communications Commission, the Civil Aeronautics Board, the General Services Administration, and many others.

For several years he was also chairman of the House Subcommittee on Deficiency Appropriations, which considered all supplemental appropriations requests for all Federal departments and agencies.

He was also a member of the Joint Committee on Atomic Energy, the powerful House-Senate committee having jurisdiction over the Atomic Energy Commission, for several years until his death.

It was this combination of positions based on seniority which made him so powerful in Congress and so influential with the agencies of the executive branch.

During his 29 years in the Congress—his 30th year began last January—THOMAS worked consistently to help the economic growth of Houston and Harris County.

In exchange, the voters returned him to their Nation's Capital 14 times—a record unsurpassed by any other U.S. Representative from Harris County.

He helped secure Federal funds over the years for widening and deepening the Houston ship channel. He was a prime mover in the campaign to take the San Jacinto Ordnance Depot on the ship channel out of the hands of Government and turn it over to private developers for industrial use.

THOMAS reached his peak in power and prestige after his Democratic colleagues elected him chairman of the House Democratic caucus in January 1964.

A few months later he announced he would retire after 1964 because of ill health, but because of the "home folks" he changed his mind.

THOMAS was a master of the handshake and the "How are you, pardner?" routine, but he avoided the weekly luncheons of the Texas delegation in Congress.

Instead he prided himself on the time he spent in the mornings and evenings doing his "homework" for legislation he had to consider.

Between sessions of Congress THOMAS spent most of his time touring Government agencies to see first hand their needs and what they were doing with the taxpayers' money.

He made inspection tours, in connection with his duties in the House, to England, France, Belgium, Germany, Turkey, and the Soviet Union.

THOMAS was noted for his courtly manner even in the heat of debate on the floor of the House. He drew appreciative laughter from his fellows more than once when he turned back the bitter opposition of another Member with an extravagant compliment.

At other times he could be scathing when something displeased him.

THOMAS dressed neatly but conservatively and the bow ties he wore were one of his trademarks. Another familiar trait was his eyeglasses in their familiar position high on his forehead.

Born April 12, 1898, in Nacogdoches, THOMAS was the son of James and Lonnie Langston Thomas. He was graduated from Rice University with a bachelor of arts degree and received his law degree from the University of Texas.

He was admitted to the Texas bar in 1927 and was county attorney for Nacogdoches County from 1927 to 1930 when he moved to Houston to accept an appointment as an assistant U.S. attorney.

He resigned from that office in 1936 to run for Congress in a field of 12 candidates. He defeated Oscar Holcombe, who had served several times as mayor of Houston, in the runoff election and started his term in the House in Januray 1937.

He has served continuously since as a U.S. Representative.

THOMAS married the former Lera Millard, of Nacogdoches, on October 21, 1922. They have two daughters, Mrs. Edward A. Lasater and Lera Thomas. The Thomases have two grandchildren, Lauren Lasater, born in 1963, and Lera Lasater, born in 1965.

The couple's Washington home, a two-story structure, is furnished almost completely with the antiques Mrs. Thomas collects as a hobby.

On two occasions THOMAS was presented with a new Cadillac, gifts of appreciation from his constituents. The Houston Sales Association named him Texas Salesman of the Year for his efforts toward making Houston a center of space technology.

In Baytown there is a traffic circle named after the late Congressman.

But the high point in THOMAS' achievement-studded career came in November 1963, when President Kennedy and then Vice President Lyndon Johnson and their wives came to Houston to attend a testimonial dinner in the Congressman's behalf.

The President said of THOMAS:

"I don't know of anyone who has been a greater help in trying to get the job done, not just for Houston and not just for Texas, but for the entire United States, than ALBERT THOMAS.

"He may not be so well known outside of this district in Texas and in Washington, but I can tell you that when he rises to speak in the House of Representatives, they listen; so do some Senators, and so do we down at the other end of Pennsylvania Avenue."

THOMAS left Houston with the Presidential party. He was in Dallas when Kennedy was assassinated and in the airplane when Johnson was sworn in as the new Chief Executive.

During World War I THOMAS served as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army. In the Second World War he served on the subcommittee which passed on appropriations for the U.S. Navy.

In 1950 he was elected chairman of the Texas delegation.

For 8 more years THOMAS represented the whole of Harris County—the most populous district in the Nation. When the county was divided into two congressional districts, THOMAS chose to represent the people who lived north of the bayou.

In 1964 a U.S. Supreme Court decision led to the redistricting legislation of 1965 which gives Harris County a third U.S. Representative next year.

Representing an area that grew from one to three Congressmen, THOMAS retained his prestige and continued his efforts to improve the economy of the country.

Though given a high rating by an ultra liberal group, THOMAS kept a tight hold on the Nation's purse strings by consistently making reductions in appropriations requests. However, he fought against cuts in the national space budget.

THOMAS once said the achievements of which he was proudest were the establishment of two shipyards at Houston, a tank assembly plant and the Dickson gun plant with its ordnance contracts and the rebuilding of Ellington Air Force Base—all during World War II—and the location of the Manned Spacecraft Center in Houston in 1961.

The Congressman was called a statesman by President Kennedy. But THOMAS was also a politician.

The tall, thin man with the ready smile and firm handshake was an imposing figure—but he never forgot his people. In opening a speech, he included everyone: Colleagues, guests, children, visitors, newsmen and others.

When President Johnson signed the Federal airport aid program bill in 1964, THOMAS added his special touch to the ceremony. He ingratiated himself with women news correspondents by passing out the special pens the President used in signing the bill.

He handed out four pens to the girl reporters before his pipeline of pens was shut off. One of the guests at the bill signing remarked knowingly to another:

"Honey, I believe he is running again."

[From the Houston (Tex.) Post, Feb. 16, 1966]

THOMAS' DEATH DEALT TEXAS INFLUENCE A BLOW

(By Felton West)

The death of Congressman ALBERT THOMAS is a blow to Texas power and prestige in Congress—especially that of the Houston area—which cannot be overcome for many years.

The 67-year-old Houston Congressman held influential positions in the House of Representatives into which no Texan can step without accumulating years of seniority starting from scratch.

He was the No. 2 Democratic member of the House Appropriations Committee—ranking below only Chairman George H. Mahon, Democrat from Lubbock, in seniority.

He was chairman of the committee's Subcommittee on Independent Offices, which considered the annual appropriations for almost all agencies of the Government except the Cabinet departments and their components. He was also a member of the Department of Defense Appropriations Subcommittee.

He and Mahon, slightly younger at 65, were the only Texans on the Appropriations Committee.

Any Texan added to the committee will have to start at the bottom on the committee and work his way up year by year, in the process of living long and getting repeated favor of the voters every 2 years, before he achieves the power and ability THOMAS had to look out for Texas and local interests.

In addition to his post on appropriations, THOMAS had, because of his seniority and expertise in Federal fiscal affairs, positions on two joint committees of Congress—the Joint Committee on Atomic Energy, which considers legislative matters involving the Atomic Energy Commission and the use and control of atomic energy, and the Joint Committee on Reduction of Nonessential Federal Expenditures, which recommends reductions in Federal spending and keeps watch on the growth of Federal employment.

With this combination of posts and his wide acquaintance and respect among his colleagues in the House and counterparts in the Senate, THOMAS was able to look out for Texas and Houston interests in a way few others in the Texas delegation could.

It was in recognition of this fact that many of his friends urged him to seek reelection in 1964 for his 15th term even though he wished—and announced his intention—to retire because of his cancerous condition.

Others in the 23-member House delegation, and Texas' two Senators, almost always looked to THOMAS for help in getting appropriations for Texas projects.

But his death not only deprives the Houston area and Texas of a powerful promoter and protector of their interests, it also dilutes their voice in

national affairs. THOMAS' thinking carried a lot of weight in the shaping of nationwide programs, such as the space effort and civil defense.

What will happen to his power positions now?

It is probable that another Texan will be appointed by the Democrats to the 46-member Appropriations Committee, but if so he will be the low man on a 34-member Democratic totem pole.

He will not be eligible for a subcommittee chairmanship until he has stacked up many years of seniority on the subcommittee, no matter how many years he has already been in Congress and serving on some other committee. It would take him much longer to become chairman, or No. 2, on the full Appropriations Committee.

Though it is probable that another Texan will be put on the committee, there is no certainty even of that. Most of the other most populous States—specifically, New York, Illinois, California, Florida, and New Jersey—are represented by two Democrats. Including Republicans, New York, Ohio, Illinois, and California have three members each on the committee. But only 28 of the 50 States have Democrats on the committee and 15 States have not a single Democrat or Republican on it.

Demands for representation from at least some of these 15 are inevitable when the Democratic members of the House Ways and Means Committee, who make up the Democrats' committee on committees, decides on a committee replacement for THOMAS.

But if the Texas House delegation gets solidly behind one candidate with sufficient seniority, congressional observers believe that the Texan they get behind will get the post because of the size of the State's delegation.

The most likely Texas choice of those probably interested is Representative Lindley Beckworth, Democrat, from Gladewater, who is now serving his 12th 2-year term in the House but only his 5th consecutive one since being out of Congress for 4 years in the 1950's.

Nine other Texans have more seniority in the House than Beckworth, but with the exception of Representative John Dowdy, of Athens, they have worked themselves up the seniority ladder on other committees to chairmanships or near-the-top rungs they probably will not want to abandon to go to the foot of the Appropriations Committee.

A member of the Appropriations Committee may serve on no other standing House committee.

Representative Dowdy might desire the appropriations position, but because of his record of voting at odds with the administration and the Democratic majority, congressional observers regard him as unlikely to meet the approval of the Democratic committee on committees and have solid support from the Texas delegation.

Other Texans who are most likely to be interested in the position and have anywhere near the seniority likely to be needed are Representative Bob Casey, of Houston, now serving his fourth House term, and Representatives Henry B. Gonzalez, of San Antonio, and Graham Purcell, of Wichita Falls.

The latter are serving their third terms, but Gonzalez came to the House via a special election and has a few months' seniority on Purcell.

Several other Texans with less seniority would undoubtedly desire the post, but are considered to have no chance for it.

No matter which Texan gets the committee position, if one does, he cannot get THOMAS' subcommittee chairmanship just as he cannot inherit the committee seniority.

That can be expected to go to Representative Joe Evins, Democrat, of Tennessee, the No. 2 Democrat on the subcommittee, as long as the Democrats control the House.

There is no way of predicting whether a Texan will be chosen by the Speaker of the House to succeed THOMAS on the Joint Committees on Atomic Energy and Reduction of Nonessential Federal Expenditures.

But it is likely that Congressmen from other States with great seniority will be named to these.

[From the Houston (Tex.) Post, Feb. 16, 1966]

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE PRAISES THOMAS' COURAGE, DETERMINATION

The Houston Chamber of Commerce paid tribute to the late Congressman ALBERT THOMAS and extended its deep sympathy to Mrs. Thomas and members of the Congressman's family in a resolution adopted Tuesday.

The chamber cited THOMAS' "record of distinguished service to Houston and Harris County" and said in part:

"Congressman THOMAS was a stanch advocate of economy in governmental operations * * * he was a constant foe of 'backdoor' spending, believing that all appropriations should go through the full checks and balances of established congressional procedures.

"His leadership in connection with the location here of the NASA Manned Spacecraft Center was an outstanding example of his thoroughness and effectiveness. * * * Standing almost alone, he overcame powerful forces in the Congress to get the San Jacinto Ordinance Depot declared surplus.

"A courtly man, with a courteous but positive approach, he campaigned actively every 2 years for reelection, traveling the highways and byways of the county, shaking hands with those he represented, and listening to their views on public issues.

"During the long and trying months of his final illness, he demonstrated almost superhuman determination and courage in continuing to meet his official responsibilities and to serve his constituency."

[From the Houston (Tex.) Chronicle, Feb. 18, 1966]

AVE ATQUE VALE, ALBERT THOMAS

This is a sad day for Houston and Harris County.

It is the day on which one of our most distinguished sons, ALBERT THOMAS, for 30 years the Representative in Congress of the Eighth District of Texas, is laid to his final rest.

His loss is hard to accept, even though we had advance warning of it. The state of his health had been precarious for 3 years and more. But he carried on so courageously and so well that when the blow fell none of us was really prepared for it.

During most of his career in Congress, ALBERT THOMAS represented all Harris County; in recent years, since the county was divided into two districts, he has represented only the north half. Yet the interests of the entire county remained uppermost in his heart, as is evidenced most dramatically in the fact that the Manned Spacecraft Center, which he did so much to help locate here, is not in his own 8th but in the 22d district.

And it is all of Harris County that mourns him today, along with Texas and the Nation. All Harris County extends its sympathy to the wife and daughters of its veteran Congressman.

Many of the Nation's great came here today for the funeral. Those of his constituents who cannot join them at church service and graveside do so in spirit.

ALBERT THOMAS, hail and farewell.

[From the Houston (Tex.) Post, Feb. 16, 1966]

ALBERT THOMAS SERVED ABLY

Few congressional districts in the Nation have been served as ably as Harris County during the long tenure of Representative ALBERT THOMAS. At the time of his death and for many years before, he was a member of the powerful House Appropriations Committee. In this capacity, he had a major part in obtaining for the county such Government installations as the Veterans' Administration hospital (originally a Navy hospital) and the Manned Spacecraft Center.

If the success of a Congressman is measured by what he does for the people of his district, ALBERT THOMAS was greatly successful. But doing things for Harris County was only the bread-and-butter part of his 29 years in Congress. As chairman of the Appropriations Subcommittee that handled funds allotted to some 40 Government agencies, ranging from the Atomic Energy Commission to the Veterans' Administration, he sought to represent all of the people of the United States in seeing to it that the money was spent wisely.

He was regarded as one of the hardest-working Members of the House. He was at his office early every day, and frequently took work home with him at night. When bureau officials seeking money appeared before his subcommittee, they usually found he knew as much about their subject as they did. Within the committee and on the floor of the House, he often voted against administration projects he considered unwise or wasteful.

THOMAS was born in Nacogdoches in 1898. He was graduated from Rice University, served in the Armed Forces during World War I, and received his law degree from the University of Texas Law School. He also attended Harvard University Law School for a time.

He was serving as county attorney at Nacogdoches in 1931 when he was offered a place in the office of the U.S. district attorney here during the Hoover administration. When Douglas W. McGregor became U.S. attorney after the election of President Franklin D. Roosevelt, THOMAS remained in the office as an assistant.

He gained considerable fame in the Federal courts of the district as a prosecutor. To underworld characters he helped convict, he was known as "Vinegarroon."

In 1936, the office of Congressman from the Eighth District, which then included all of Harris County, became vacant when Representative Joe Eagle retired to run unsuccessfully for the Senate. THOMAS became one of more than a dozen candidates.

THOMAS and former Mayor Oscar F. Holcombe were in the runoff primary, and THOMAS won. It was a political upset, and a tribute to the THOMAS smile and handshake.

The county's population was much smaller then than it is now. Television was still to be born, and if a young man in politics wanted votes, he had to get out and meet the voters. THOMAS, by traveling around the county from early morning until late at night, met most of them.

In election years since, he usually won reelection easily.

ALBERT THOMAS learned how the people of this county felt about him November 21, 1963, when some 3,300 attended a banquet in his honor. It was held in the coliseum. Among those who said complimentary things were President John F. Kennedy and then Vice President Lyndon B. Johnson. Mr. Kennedy was killed the next day in Dallas, and ALBERT THOMAS was present in the plane when Mr. Johnson took the oath as President.

He also was honored in 1965 when the Brown Foundation gave $500,000 to Rice University to establish the ALBERT THOMAS chair of political science.

THOMAS' death, although not unexpected, was a shock to all who knew him and loved him. The Post joins many friends throughout the Nation in sympathy for Mrs. Thomas and his daughters. He will be long remembered here and in the Halls of Congress.

[From the Houston (Tex.) Chronicle, Feb. 16, 1966]

CONGRESSMAN ALBERT THOMAS

To the Nation ALBERT THOMAS was a towering figure on the House Appropriations Committee and for many years the key member of that committee so far as several important agencies of Government are concerned.

To the district he represented he was a Congressman extraordinarily devoted to his "home folks" and their interests, and as extraordinarily successful in protecting and advancing those interests.

To the hundreds of Congressmen who served with him in the House over the years he was one of the hardest working Members, one of the most knowledgeable, one of the best allies, and one of the toughest opponents in a legislative fight, one of the best friends.

For, although often called a loner because he worked such long hours and gave little time to the Capital social whirl, he had a great capacity for friendship as well as for commanding the respect and admiration of his colleagues.

It would be difficult, indeed, to give ALBERT THOMAS sufficient recognition for his labors in behalf of his constituents.

One thinks first, perhaps, of the location of the Manned Spacecraft Center of NASA here in Harris County. The largest share of the credit assuredly goes to him.

But many monuments to ALBERT THOMAS stand in Houston and Harris County. He had a hand in getting for this community the Veterans' Administration hospital, the Sam Houston Coliseum, the new Federal building, the Dickson gun plant of World War II fame, among many other such services to his community.

And during all his 30 years in Congress he worked hard and successfully for the continuing development of the Houston ship channel. A great deal of the credit for the successive deepenings and widenings of the waterway belongs to him.

Besides those monumental services to Harris County, THOMAS also found time to do thousands of favors for individual constituents.

It was a fortunate day for Harris County 30 years ago when THOMAS, then the assistant to the U.S. district attorney here, decided to run for Congress.

The Eighth District of Texas grew in population until for years ALBERT THOMAS represented more people than any other Congressman. It was a heavy responsibility to represent more than twice as many persons as the average Member of the House. At length Harris County was redistricted and the Eighth District became the north half; last year a second redistricting reduced it to what might be described as the northeast third of the county.

Through his long service THOMAS rose in seniority to 11th in the House (8th among Democrats). More important, he rose to the immensely powerful position of No. 2 member of the House Appropriations Committee.

As chairman of the Subcommittee on Independent Office Appropriations he wielded vast influence for many years. As a member of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense he had much to say about expenditures which in recent years have been running about half the Government's total. Another of his positions of great influence was his membership in the Joint Senate-House Committee on Atomic Energy.

It is no wonder that when THOMAS announced almost 3 years ago his intention of retiring, he was flooded with requests for reconsideration.

These came from the President, John F. Kennedy; the Vice President, Lyndon B. Johnson; from hundreds of his colleagues in the Congress; and from uncounted thousands of citizens of Harris County and Texas.

Even then—in April 1963—he had carried on for some time despite illness and pain. He had undergone three operations for cancer. Assuredly the

veteran representative of the Eighth Texas District had long since earned the right to rest, to live out whatever time remained to him on this earth free of the pressure of official duties, free to enjoy to the full the company of his family.

But that was not to be. In the face of such impressive evidence that top officials and constituents alike wanted him to carry on, there was nothing to do, for one with his devotion to duty, but to remain in harness. He ran again, for his 15th term. He served on, working those long hours except when his health demanded he spend some time in the hospital.

Only last January 22 he announced that he would seek his 16th term. He had recently been home and had had impressed upon him once again that his people wanted him to continue to represent them. He had just had another letter from President Johnson telling him he needed his help and counsel.

The tribute which President Johnson paid Representative THOMAS says so much in a few words that we repeat it here:

"Of the qualities that made ALBERT THOMAS a remarkable man, devotion to the people he served and loyalty to his friends stands higher than all.

"I knew him, and knew him well, for a long time. He loved Houston and the Congress of the United States.

"He worked hard. He served well.

"His death leaves a lonely place in the lives of those who knew him best."

During his lifetime THOMAS was paid many honors, only a few of which there is room to mention here.

The ALBERT THOMAS appreciation dinner held in the coliseum November 21, 1963, was probably the largest seated dinner ever held in Texas. There were more than 3,200 persons in attendance; a Cadillac was presented to the Congressman; among those present were President and Mrs. Kennedy and Vice President and Mrs. Johnson.

Last year the Brown Foundation made a $500,000 gift to Rice University for the ALBERT THOMAS chair of political science. The Congressman and George Brown were freshmen together there in 1916 and were lifelong friends.

The magnificent gymnasium in the new Sam Rayburn House Office Building is named in honor of ALBERT THOMAS.

Those are a few of the honors heaped upon him. There will be more. And the longtime Congressman from the Eighth District of Texas will live in the history of his State and Nation.

TRIBUTE BY HON. WRIGHT PATMAN

OF TEXAS

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to insert a statement that appeared in the Houston, Tex., Chronicle, February 15, 1966, headed, "East Texan Recalls Congressman's Boyhood—ALBERT Liked Old Clothes, Walk Through Gentle Hills."

The SPEAKER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

There was no objection.

The statement is as follows:

EAST TEXAN RECALLS CONGRESSMAN'S BOYHOOD—ALBERT LIKED OLD CLOTHES, WALK THROUGH GENTLE HILLS

(By Bob Bowman)

NACOGDOCHES.—ALBERT THOMAS came out of east Texas in the 1930's with a scrapping spirit and a country boy's love for the ramrod-stiff pines of Nacogdoches County.

He never lost either.

On the few precious occasions he stole away from the public's eye, for a time of rest, he came home to Nacogdoches to walk up and down its old brick streets and the gentle red hills he knew as a boy.

He owned a farm a few miles north, a place he called his retirement home.

"ALBERT liked to put on his old clothes and just walk over the land," said Jewel Byrd, an oilman and boyhood friend.

"He liked black-eyed peas, too, and he drank his coffee from a saucer."

THOMAS grew up in his father's general store.

"When his mother died, ALBERT stayed real close to his daddy. He was like that most of his life. Considerate and trying to make people feel better," said Byrd.

In high school, THOMAS was a spunky leader who didn't ask anyone for anything.

He courted the school's prettiest girl, Lera Millard, and made her his wife and closest political ally.

"I think the first time I really noticed ALBERT he was racing an old gray horse against some other boys on the high school campus," remembers Byrd.

"He won the race, too, like most everything else he did."

Another boyhood friend, Attorney F. I. Tucker, served THOMAS' unexpired term as Nacogdoches county attorney in the 1930's when he moved to Houston to become an assistant U.S. district attorney.

"ALBERT loved people. He was always shaking hands, walking the streets, and talking with people when he came home," Tucker recalls.

It was THOMAS' persistence and fighting spirit that prompted his Nacogdoches' cronies to nickname him "Hossfly"—a name that stuck throughout his life.

THOMAS' parents died during his youth and most of his family members have moved from Nacogdoches. Some of his wife's kin, however, still live here.

THOMAS was one of Nacogdoches' greatest success stories, says Lumberman Lacy H. Hunt.

"It was a case of a country boy making good."

FURTHER TRIBUTE BY SENATOR RALPH W. YARBOROUGH

OF TEXAS

Mr. President, as a continuation of the tribute to the late Congressman ALBERT THOMAS which I made on the floor of the Senate Friday, February 25, 1966, I would like to insert several matters pertaining to the final rites of this great Texan, which have been received by me subsequent to last Friday.

Although the tributes and descriptions of ALBERT THOMAS will continue to call our attention to the outstanding nature of this remarkable individual for a long time, I think an account of the final rites should be printed for history in the Congressional Record. For this reason, I ask unanimous consent that the article from the Houston Chronicle of Friday, February 18, 1966, entitled "ALBERT THOMAS Laid to Rest With Military Ceremonies," the article from the Houston Chronicle of Saturday, February 19, 1966, entitled "The Saddest Bugle Call, Day Is Done for THOMAS," the articles from the Houston Post of Saturday, February 19, 1966, entitled "THOMAS Bade Farewell" and "High Officials Attend Rites," and the tribute which appeared in Maurine Parkhurst's column in the Thursday, February 24, 1966, Houston Chronicle be printed at this point in the Record.

There being no objection, the articles were ordered to be printed in the Record, as follows:

[From the Houston Chronicle, Feb. 18, 1966]

ALBERT THOMAS LAID TO REST WITH MILITARY CEREMONIES

U.S. Representative ALBERT THOMAS, 67, was buried today in a military cemetery in Houston's North Side.

An eight-gun salute was fired. A bugler blew taps as the coffin was lowered into the grave.

A score or more of his colleagues from the House of Representatives in Washington, D.C., attended the military service.

ALLEN GIVES EULOGY

Earlier this afternoon, Dr. Charles L. Allen eulogized THOMAS at a service in First Methodist Church.

Dr. Allen quoted President Johnson:

"Of the qualities that made ALBERT THOMAS a remarkable man, devotion to the people he served and loyalty to his friends stand higher than all."

The church was filled with financiers, labor leaders, millionaries, and other friends.

"COURTEOUS, COURTLY"

And many followed the hearse to the Veterans' Administration cemetery on Steubner Airline Road.

ALBERT THOMAS has represented Houston in Congress for 30 years.

Dr. Allen summed up THOMAS as "courteous, courtly, polite—he never forgot to be a gentleman."

THOMAS died Tuesday of cancer in his Washington, D.C., home. His body was flown here in a Presidential fleet plane Wednesday night.

A steady flow of mourners came to the Settegast-Kopf Funeral Home chapel, 3300 Kirby, where the body of THOMAS lay in state until the funeral.

The chapel's Colonial Room was filled with wreaths from many individuals and organizations. THOMAS, known as a titan in Washington, was also known down to the lowest in the ranks of labor from whence he drew much of his Democratic strength.

His familiar greeting of "podnah" for all set him apart from most political leaders. His office door was always open to his constituents.

There was nothing of snobbery about him. He was shrewd, gregarious and yet quiet.

THOMAS came to Houston in 1930 from Nacogdoches, one of the first Anglo-Saxon settlements in Texas. He had been county attorney there after graduating from Rice University and the University of Texas Law School, and attending Harvard Law School.

He became an assistant U.S. attorney in Houston and traveled the southern district of the Federal court for 6 years before running for Congress and winning in 1936. He took his seat in January 1937, in the 75th Congress. He had filed for a seat in the next Congress when he died.

Gov. John Connally, Attorney General Waggoner Carr, Secretary of State Crawford Martin, and U.S. Judge Homer Thornberry were flown here for the funeral.

They was joined at the South Main Church by a large congressional delegation, led by Texas' two Senators, Ralph Yarborough and John Tower, and U.S. Representative George Mahon of Lubbock, chairman of the House

Appropriations Committee, of which THOMAS was the second ranking member.

Texas Members of the House who announced they would be in the funeral delegation include:

Representatives Bob Poage, of Waco; O. C. Fisher, of San Angelo; Clark Thompson, of Galveston; Walter Rogers, of Pampa; John Dowdy, of Athens; Jack Brooks, of Beaumont; Jim Wright, of Fort Worth; John Young, of Corpus Christi; Bob Casey, of Houston; Henry Gonzalez, of San Antonio; Graham Purcell, of Wichita Falls; Ray Roberts, of McKinney; Jake Pickle, of Austin; Earle Cabell, of Dallas; Eligio de la Garza, of Mission; and Richard C. White, of El Paso, all Democrats.

Also, the following members of the House Appropriations Committee: Representatives Mike Kirwan, Democrat, of Ohio; Jamie Whitten, Democrat, of Mississippi; John Fogarty, Democrat, of Rhode Island; Joe Evins, Democrat, of Tennessee; Tom Steed, Democrat, of Oklahoma; Frank Bow, Republican, of Ohio; Edward P. Boland, Democrat, of Mississippi; Winfield K. Denton, Democrat, of Indiana; William E. Minshall, Republican, of Ohio; Robert N. Giaimo, Democrat, of Connecticut; Thomas G. Morris, Democrat, of New Mexico; and George E. Shipley, Democrat, of Illinois.

The Joint Committee on Atomic Energy of which THOMAS also was a member, will be represented by its chairman, Representative Chet Holifield, Democrat, of California, and Representative Melvin Price, Democrat, of Illinois.

At death, THOMAS ranked 11th in House seniority and No. 2 on the powerful House Appropriations Committee.

He had led major subcommittees since 1949. He steered much to Houston, particularly to the ship channel and finally the Manned Spacecraft Center on Clear Lake, which will be his greatest monument.

THOMAS' last resting place is the Veterans' Administration cemetery on Steubner Airline Road, deep in his congressional district and which he helped to create.

He chose that over Arlington National Cemetery as a place of burial. He was a World War I veteran, being discharged as a lieutenant.

Six soldiers from Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio acted as pallbearers.

Veterans held services at the cemetery.

His survivors include his wife, Mrs. Lera Thomas, and his daughters, Mrs. Anne Lasater, of Houston and Brazil, and Miss Lera Thomas, of Houston.

[From the Houston Chronicle, Feb. 19, 1966]

THE SADDEST BUGLE CALL, DAY IS DONE FOR THOMAS

(By Zarko Franks)

He lies buried today in a cemetery carved from a prairie of scrub pine, yupon, and weeds.

The eulogies had been delivered, a bugler sounded taps, a 24-shot rifle salute fired.

Two U.S. Senators, about 30 U.S. Congressmen, the affluent, the wealthy, the humble, and the unknown were there at the Veterans' Administration cemetery on Steubner Airline Road in the deep north side.

The widow had so willed it and ALBERT THOMAS was buried there on the lonely prairie.

His body, as the preacher said, was "tenderly committed" to the earth.

Eight soldiers from Fort Sam Houston fired their rifles. Each fired a volley of three rounds.

From heaven's blue dome came a golden sun.

As the bronze coffin in a lead vault was lowered into the ground, a soldier blew taps, the saddest of all bugle calls.

FOR 30 YEARS

For ALBERT THOMAS, 67, a cancer victim, day was done. For 30 years he had served this community in the Halls of Congress.

Bureaucrats feared him, colleagues admired him, his constituents swore by him.

ALBERT THOMAS was the north side. Oilmen gave him testimonial dinners. They courted him at the Houston Club.

SECRET FOR SUCCESS

He placated them, yes, and worked for them. But ALBERT THOMAS knew where his voting strength rested. In the union halls among plumbers, longshoremen, and pipefitters.

He once confided to a friend his secret for success in politics.

"There are more votes among the working class than in River Oaks."

This he believed and worked at. But the wonder of his political magic lies in the fact that he worked equally hard for big business and the oil industry in Texas.

The Cadillacs, as they must, led the funeral parade from First Methodist Church, Main and Clay.

FORDS AND CHEVIES

But there were more Fords and Chevies in the motorcade.

A Negro union laborer remarked:

"That's just the way Mr. ALBERT would have wanted it."

The congressional delegation, including U.S. Senator Ralph Yarborough, Democrat, of Texas, and U.S. Senator John Tower, Republican, of Texas, was near the undertaker's tent.

In the delegation were about 30 Congressmen including Bob Casey, Houston; Henry Gonzalez, San Antonio; Jim Wright, of Fort Worth, and Clark Thompson, Galveston.

Also at the graveside military funeral were oilman-publisher John Mecom and his wife, Chronicle editor Everett Collier and his wife, John T. Jones, Jr., radio and television stations owner, Mayor Louie Welch and Mrs. Welch, Brown & Root's George Brown, and other big names in this community.

After taps was sounded, the six soldiers from Fort Sam Houston, moved clocklike to fold the U.S. flag before the coffin was lowered.

The flag was folded in triangular sections, then presented to the widow, Mrs. Lera Thomas.

Earlier, at the church services, Dr. Charles Allen, pastor of the First Methodist Church, had delivered the eulogy.

The crowd, not capacity, was estimated at about 2,000. However, about 400 people lined Clay Street outside the church.

Dr. Allen quoted President Lyndon Johnson's words:

"Of the qualities that made ALBERT THOMAS a remarkable man, devotion to the people he served and loyalty to his friends stand higher than all."

The church was filled with financiers, politicians, labor leaders, and congressional representatives.

Texas Gov. John Connally was among those who had come to pay their respects.

In his eulogy Dr. Allen also quoted the late John F. Kennedy, who described THOMAS as the kind of man "old enough to dream dreams and young enough to see visions."

Dr. Allen summed up THOMAS as "courteous, courtly, polite—he never forgot to be a gentleman."

Perhaps the finest tribute to THOMAS was paid by a mourner on Clay Street. He was a Latin-American, probably first generation American. He said:

"I'm happy they're burying him in the North Side. That's where he belongs, near his people."

[From the Houston Post, Feb. 19, 1966]

THOMAS BADE FAREWELL

(By Harold Scarlett)

The meek and the mighty joined Friday in a last reverent farewell to Representative ALBERT THOMAS.

His beloved "home folks" and famous figures from Washington and Austin—more than 2,000 in all—came to the funeral in the downtown First Methodist Church.

They heard Dr. Charles L. Allen, the dead Congressman's minister, intone:

"His name is permanently inscribed on the pages of time. Truly ALBERT THOMAS walked through life with purpose and without fear."

Then, to the keening wail of taps and the crash of musketry, the mourners saw the body of THOMAS—a country boy who became a congressional giant—committed back to the Texas earth he always loved.

THOMAS, fittingly, was buried in the new Veterans' Administration Cemetery at 10410 Steubner Airline Road.

The cemetery in northeast Harris County was one of the last of many Federal emoluments which THOMAS secured for the "home folks" during almost 30 years as Houston's congressional "water boy."

His wife Lera requested his burial there. She knew the cemetery was close to his heart.

To fulfill her request, the VA waived a rule which restricts the cemetery to veterans who have died in VA hospitals.

THOMAS, a lieutenant in World War I, died in his Washington home Tuesday morning. He had suffered from cancer for several years.

Old friends began assembling in the horseshoe-shaped auditorium of the First Methodist Church 2 hours before the funeral began at 2 p.m.

Many filed by the opened bronze casket in a final farewell. One was a postman in uniform. Hundreds of others had viewed the body as it lay in state at the Settegast-Kopf Funeral Home.

The body was flown to Houston on Wednesday night and remained at the funeral home until 2 hours before the service.

At the foot of the coffin, there was a spray of white chrysanthemums and red anthuriums from President Johnson and his family.

While the President was unable to attend the service, 33 Congressmen and the 2 Texas Senators—John Tower and Ralph Yarborough—filled 6 front pews of the church.

Most of them flew from Washington to Houston by Air Force plane, then returned to the Capital after the funeral.

Gov. John Connally led a delegation of State leaders from Austin to the funeral. City and county officials were in the audience.

THOMAS' wife and his two daughters, Mrs. Anne Lasater and Miss Lera Thomas, sat in the front row a few feet from the casket.

The 2,500-seat church still had some empty seats when the service began. Outside several hundred persons, apparently unaware that seats were still available, listened to the services over loudspeakers.

Behind the pulpit, a cascade of flowers covered most of the choir loft. The centerpiece was a spray of red, white, and blue blossoms in the shape of a shield, bearing the single word "ALBERT."

The hymn "O God, Our Help in Ages Past" opened the simple 25-minute service in the big brown-paneled auditorium where THOMAS had worshiped whenever he was in Houston.

The Thomases had joined the church shortly after they moved to Houston in 1930.

An associate minister, the Reverend Frederick Marsh, read the scriptures. A second associate, the Reverend Robert Kristensen, led the opening prayer.

Reverend Kristensen in his prayer noted that THOMAS, the son of a country storekeeper in Nacogdoches, had roots deep in Texas' past.

"But," he added, "the past was never a leash to hold him back, but a ladder on which to climb.

"He transformed the concept of the word 'politician' and made it never vain, haughty, or corruptive. He showed us a patriotism which enveloped not any single group, but all people."

Dr. Allen in his eulogy recalled that the late Bishop A. Frank Smith used to say that a man should always walk as if he is going somewhere.

"Albert Thomas walked through life with the walk of a man who has somewhere to go," Dr. Allen said.

He cataloged Thomas' traits—a courtly politeness, faithful work, modest self-effacement, dedication, and love of his fellow men.

"Study his voting record," the minister said, "and you see he was always for the things he thought would help people.

"He is an inspiration that will live down through the years."

With the words of homage finished, six soldiers from Sam Houston in San Antonio bore the casket to a hearse for the 14-mile journey to the cemetery.

Thomas was the 60th veteran to be buried in the VA cemetery, which held its first service last November 9.

His grave is near the end of the long entry mall, in front of the white stone hemicycle. The hemicycle is a circular, columned, pavilion with a bell tower whose carillon has not yet been installed.

At the cemetery, more flowers were banked around a roped-off square surrounding the grave. Bees flitted among the wreaths.

The Washington legislators, arriving in a cortege of limousines, stood in a body at the foot of the grave. From the hearse, the soldier pallbearers moved the casket to the grave between a double rank of Houston firemen.

Underfoot, the rain-logged earth yielded to their tread.

The mall of the new cemetery, only recently sprigged with grass, is still mostly raw earth. A big square around the grave was covered with plywood squares and tarpaulins to support the mourners.

Dr. Allen recited the final words: "We therefore tenderly commit his body to the ground."

An Army buglar blew "Taps."

Across the roadway beneath the hemicycle, seven soldiers fired three rounds into the serene blue sky. A veteran had come home.

There is no monument yet. But on the wall of the hemicycle there is a bronze plaque, set in place when the memorial was built, which could be an epitaph. It reads:

"Albert Thomas, soldier—humanitarian—statesman.

"Whose concern for America's veterans has made possible the placement of this cemetery here on the hallowed soil where honored dead sleep in Texas soil.

"Whose steadfast and uncommon public service has given the finest gift a man can give his age and time:

"The gift of a constructive and creative life."

[From the Houston Post, Feb. 19, 1966]

High Officials Attend Rites

(By Felton West)

Congressman Albert Thomas' funeral cortege was filled Friday with high officials from every area of government, from city hall to the Halls of Congress and the Federal executive branch in Washington.

A Presidential jet airplane load of Congressmen, Senators, and other Washington officials flew into the Houston International Airport at 1:20 p.m. from Washington, about an hour late because of 120-mile-an-hour headwinds and mechanical difficulties with the airplane that delayed the departure from the Capital about 10 minutes.

Being so late, the congressional party had to abandon its plan to visit Mrs. Lera Thomas, the Congressman's wife, at her home at 2184 Troon, to pay their respects. Instead, the lawmakers were driven directly to the First Methodist Church, in 14 police-escorted limousines, to attend the funeral service.

There the lawmakers sat together near the front of the church during the service. Afterward they rode in the procession to the Veterans' Administration cemetery, saw their deceased comrade laid to rest in the earth, and gave Mrs. Thomas their condolences.

Gov. John B. Connally; Texas Secretary of State Crawford Martin, and Federal Circuit Court Judge Homer Thornberry, a former congressional colleague of THOMAS, flew into International Airport in the Governor's official Lodestar airplane about 11:50 a.m.

Met there by Attorney General Waggoner Carr, who had flown into town a little earlier from Dallas, the Governor and his party, which included Houston Attorney John L. Hill, went to the Thomas home on Troon to pay their respects. They later attended the First Methodist Church service, then left for Laredo to attend the annual George Washington's Birthday celebration there.

A Federal Aviation Agency Jetstar airplane arrived shortly after noon bringing Gen. William F. McKee, Administrator of the Federal Aviation Agency; James Webb, Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration; and James Ramey, a Commissioner of the Atomic Energy Commission, to the funeral. They returned to Washington after the burial service.

Webb was accompanied to the funeral by Dr. Robert Gilruth, Director of the Manned Spacecraft Center.

At least one former Governor of Texas, Price Daniel, was in the crowd at the church.

The representative of city hall was Mayor Louie Welch, and County Judge Bill Elliott and County Commissioner E. A. (Squatty) Lyons were spotted in the crowd.

Several State legislators were in the crowd, including State Senator Criss Cole, of Harris County. There was State Representative Bob Eckhardt, who was an announced candidate for THOMAS' congressional seat before the Congressman's death last Tuesday but had said he admired THOMAS so much he would withdraw if the cancer-ridden incumbent was able to continue his lawmaking service.

In the crowd were THOMAS' faithful office and Appropriations Committee staffs. His committee aids, Homer Skarin and Keith Mainland, had been here for several days as representatives of the House of Representatives

helping with the funeral arrangements. They flew back to Washington aboard the Presidential fleet jet after the burial.

Mrs. Rose Zamaria, THOMAS' administrative assistant, had been in town for several days helping with the funeral arrangements. And she will probably be here a few more days with Mrs. Thomas, along with Mrs. Mari Ball, a former assistant and longtime friend of the Congressman's.

They were joined at the funeral by the rest of THOMAS' office staff, who were flown here Friday morning from Washington in a NASA Gulfstream airplane. These were Mrs. Mary Louise Schwarzman, Al Martinez, Miss Theresa Napoli, and Miss Geraldine Rothwell.

Accompanying them were Willard Deason, of Austin, a member of the Interstate Commerce Commission; H. H. Morris, the House of Representatives postmaster; and Herbert Botts, manager of the House gymnasium, which is named for THOMAS.

The congressional party, accompanied by House Sergeant at Arms Zeake W. Johnson, Jr., included Senator Ralph W. Yarborough, Democrat, of Texas, and Senator John G . Tower, Republican, of Texas, and these Representatives from Texas (all Democrats):

George Mahon, of Lubbock, chairman of the House Appropriations Committee, on which THOMAS was the ranking Democrat; W. R. Poage, of Waco; O. C. Fisher, of San Angelo; Clark W. Thompson, of Galveston; Walter Rogers, of Pampa; John Dowdy, of Athens; Jack Brooks, of Beaumont; Jim Wright, of Fort Worth; John Young, of Corpus Christi; Bob Casey, of Houston; Henry B. Gonzalez, of San Antonio; Graham Purcell, of Wichita Falls; Ray Roberts, of McKinney; J. J. Pickle, of Austin; Earle Cabell, of Dallas; Eligio de la Garza, of Mission; and Richard White of El Paso.

Others in the party were Representatives Michael J. Kirwan, Democrat, of Ohio; Jamie L. Whitten, Democrat, of Mississippi; John E. Fogarty, Democrat, of Rhode Island; Joe L. Evins, Democrat, of Tennessee; Tom Steed, Democrat, of Oklahoma; Frank T. Bow, Republican, of Ohio; Edward P. Boland, Democrat, of Massachusetts; Charles R. Jonas, Republican, of North Carolina; Daniel J. Flood, Democrat, of Pennsylvania; Winfield K. Denton, Democrat, of Indiana; William E. Minshall, Republican, of Ohio; Robert N. Giaimo, Democrat, of Connecticut; Thomas G. Morris, Democrat, of New Mexico; and George E. Shipley, Democrat, of Illinois—all colleagues of THOMAS' on the House Appropriations Committee.

The party also included Representatives Chet Holifield, Democrat, of California, and Melvin Price, Democrat, of Illinois, two of THOMAS' colleagues on the Joint Committee on Atomic Energy.

Others who came to the funeral aboard the Presidential fleet airplane were E. G. Riaden, manager of the House of Representatives bank; Navy Capt. William Fraser, of the Bethesda Naval Medical Center, Bethesda, Md., who was Congressman THOMAS' doctor at the Medical Center and was with THOMAS when he died; Maj. Gen. D. L. Crow, Air Force Comptroller; Maj. Gen. R. Moore, Deputy Comptroller in the Office of the Secretary of De-

fense; Brig. Gen. C. E. Beck, Army Comptroller; and two military liaison colonels.

Lt. Gen. William R. Calhoun of the Eighth Army Corps, Austin, attended as a representative of Lt. Gen. Thomas Dunn, commanding general of the 4th Army.

The list of Government officials spotted in the crowd at the church and the cemetery could be almost endless.

Almost all had come in contact officially—and many, many of them on a personal friendship basis—with THOMAS in his more than 29 years' service as Houston's Congressman.

[From the Houston Post, Feb. 19, 1966]

HE NEVER LOST TOUCH WITH THE WORKING PEOPLE—THEY LINED STREET TO HONOR ALBERT THOMAS

(By Bob Johnson)

The 350 to 400 people who lined Clay Street outside the First Methodist Church had no way of knowing there were plenty of seats inside.

They probably wouldn't have gone in anyway.

Few of them really knew Congressman ALBERT THOMAS, and one man's guess is as good as the next as to what brought most of them to his funeral.

Perhaps it was the gleaming array of limousines—23 long, black Cadillacs. Or, maybe it was the persistent rumor that President Johnson would make a last-minute appearance like he did at Billy Graham's revival in the Dome Stadium last November.

The crowd outside began to form at noon. Three Negro women—one middle aged, and two elderly—were among the early arrivals.

"I'll bet there'll be plenty of folks from Nacogdoches here today. My family traded with Mr. THOMAS' daddy at his store there. Both our families were well-known there," the youngest said.

"Do you think Mrs. Thomas will come in this way?" the oldest lady asked. "I sure hope to get to see her. She's such a fine lady.

"I just came to pay my respects," she concluded.

Small squads of policemen worked in the streets surrounding the big church, briskly directing traffic and people. Occasionally one of them would stamp the pavement to ease the ache in his feet.

The crowd outside continued to grow.

Four teenage girls dressed in drill team uniforms went in the church, and that caused a small stir. Four nuns were right behind them.

Then, the first of the limousines arrived. Two police officers rushed over to the car to help the lady out.

"Who's that?" one of the outsiders asked.

"I don't know, but she has got to be somebody. Did you see the way those cops jumped when she drove up?"

Shortly, the word came back. The lady was Mrs. W. W. Fondren, whose husband was one of the founders of the Humble Oil & Refining Co.

Presently, Mrs. Thomas and members of the Thomas family arrived in two limousines. Somehow, everyone seemed to know who they were, and the chatter outside quickly subsided to a more respectful murmur.

"I thought she was going to cry," a woman said, after Mrs. Thomas went inside.

"Not on your life," her husband answered softly. "She wouldn't let that happen."

Now the big cars began to arrive in a quick, sleek stream. The riders were Congressmen, Senators, military men, and other officials from Washington, D.C.

They arrived so quickly, the spectators on Clay Street were unable to recognize many faces. Hardly anyone saw Gov. John Connally go in, but the onlookers didn't miss Senators Ralph Yarborough and John Tower riding together.

"How about that," an old man in a cowboy hat loudly exclaimed. "Never thought I'd see those two being so friendly."

No one replied to him, but some disapproving looks told him he was off base.

Finally, the word spread that the funeral service was underway, but the crowd outside stayed on. The sidewalk on Clay between Main and Travis was packed solid.

There was a lot of talk about Congressman THOMAS, about how powerful he was in Washington, about how his office door was always open, and about how he never failed to reply quickly to any man's letter.

One man told how Congressman THOMAS always came to the Houston Post Office employees' annual picnics.

"And it didn't make any difference if he was running for office," he added. "He was always our friend. He never got so big he didn't want to rub elbows with working people."

Then, just before the service ended, and the long drive to the cemetery began, a bum—or maybe just a poor man—hobbled up on a crutch, surveyed the crowd and lines of limousines.

He let out a low, amazed whistle.

"Criminy, would you look at those cars. What's going on here, anyway?"

"Sshh," a lady in a red suit said, "You can see it's a funeral."

"Who died?" he asked, whispering quietly this time.

"Didn't you know? It's the Congressman—ALBERT THOMAS."

[From the Houston Post, Feb. 19, 1966]

MRS. THOMAS URGED TO SEEK HUSBAND'S SEAT

A move is afoot to get Mrs. Albert Thomas to fill her husband's seat in Congress.

John McClelland, candidate for State representative, position 4 in the 22d legislative district, is a leader of the effort to petition Mrs. Thomas to run for the interim congressional term of her husband.

THOMAS died Tuesday and was buried Friday.

"We hope to encourage and get Mrs. Thomas to run and get elected for the interim term ending January 1, 1967," McClelland said.

He said it was possible that THOMAS' name on the May 7 Democratic primary ballot for a new term would receive a majority of the votes.

This would then make it possible for the county Democratic executive committee to select Mrs. Thomas as the Democratic nominee in the November general election, McClelland said.

Baytown Chemist E. A. (Woody) Rose is the only person to file for the Republican nomination.

State Representative Bob Eckhardt and Larry McKaskle, a former aid to Mayor Louie Welch, filed for the Democratic nomination in the May Democratic primary along with THOMAS.

Despite his death THOMAS' name will be on the primary ballot since he had paid the full $3,000 filing fee.

Mrs. Thomas has made no comment concerning the move to get her to fill the vacancy caused by her husband's death.

McClelland said that "because of her 30 years in Washington with her husband she could pick up much more easily than anyone else the programs he initiated and was working on at the time of his death.

"This committee intends to not only work actively, along with other volunteers, in getting petitions signed, but also to campaign on Mrs. Thomas' behalf to get her elected if she heeds the desire of those who want her to run," McClelland said.

Governor Connally left for Laredo Friday with no indication he would call the special election to fill THOMAS' unexpired 2-year term over the weekend.

Eckhardt and McKaskle have indicated they would be candidates in the special election. Others may also pay the $500 filing fee.

However, it was reported that McKaskle might change his mind and support Mrs. Thomas.

Asked about the report, McKaskle said, "I have no comment to make until I first talk with her.

"Mr. THOMAS was a very good friend of mine. So is Mrs. Thomas."

Eckhardt declined comment on the possible candidacy of Mrs. Thomas and his own political plans in connection with the congressional vacancy.

There have been reports that one Texas Congressman has tried to get Eckhardt to pull out in favor of Mrs. Thomas.

"I have taken the position there ought to be at least a short political moratorium until after the (Thomas) funeral, and I don't think it appropriate to discuss the situation at this time," Eckhardt said.

[From the Houston Chronicle, Feb. 24, 1966]

A Tribute

(By Maurine Parkhurst)

There have been so many splendid tributes to our late and beloved Congressman Albert Thomas, and our typewriter feels inadequate to compete with these, but our sincere affection and admiration has to thump itself into print, too.

"He was a friend of many"—this has been repeated over and over but he brought to each a deep personal feeling and sincerity. He was always kind because it was his nature, just as he was a gentleman because he could not have been otherwise.

We were respectful of his abilities and titles but these never got into the way of our warm affectionate relationship with him.

He and Lera were a magnificent team, with her dedication and service just as untiring and sincere. Her decision to further offer her services is the only light to come of this saddened dark. She has our wishes and affection—but then she has always known that.

Bill Introduced to Rename Veterans' Administration Cemetery at Houston by

SENATOR RALPH W. YARBOROUGH

OF TEXAS

Mr. President, I introduce, for appropriate reference, a bill to designate the Veterans' Administration cemetery at Houston, Tex., the "Albert Thomas Veterans' Memorial Cemetery."

Mr. Thomas was always a trusted friend and an able colleague. His long and hard-earned record of public service speaks for itself. He was born in Nacogdoches, Tex., in 1898, and attended public schools there. Service as an Army lieutenant during the First World War interrupted his undergraduate schooling, but after the war he returned and received a B.A. from Rice Institute in Houston. Thereafter, he was graduated from the University of Texas School of Law in 1926.

Upon his return to Nacogdoches, he was elected to the office of the district and county attorney. Later, he was appointed to be the assistant U.S. attorney for the southern district of Texas where he served until 1936.

Since 1936, ALBERT THOMAS has served more than 29 years as the Representative of the people of the Eighth District of Texas. During that time, he has shown that hard work and integrity are their own rewards. Through the years, his efforts have yielded benefits both for the people of his district and of the Nation, as well. His work is reflected in projects such as the Manned Space Center in Houston, in solutions to the problems of flood control in the coastal areas of Texas, and in the improvement of the Houston navigable ports and harbors which serve the entire Southwest. Indeed, the very cemetery to be named by this bill is a product of Mr. THOMAS' unending efforts, and I feel that the tribute proposed here today is but slight recompense for the debt this country owes this fine statesman.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The bill will be received and appropriately referred.

The bill (S. 3074) to designate the Veterans' Administration cemetery at Houston, Tex., as the "ALBERT THOMAS Veterans' Memorial Cemetery," introduced by Mr. Yarborough, was received, read twice by its title, and referred to the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs.

Resolutions of Houston Organizations Introduced by

SENATOR RALPH W. YARBOROUGH

OF TEXAS

Mr. President, the recent death of Congressman ALBERT THOMAS was a great loss to us here in Washington, but even more so to the area which he represented. The feeling for ALBERT THOMAS that was held by the people of Houston is as close as any constituency can have for their Congressman.

To illustrate their respect, admiration, and devotion to this great man, I ask unanimous consent that resolutions passed by the Houston Democratic Women's Club and the Houston Area Federal Business Association be printed at this point in the Record, together with the names affixed thereto.

There being no objection, the resolutions were ordered to be printed in the Record, as follows:

RESOLUTION OF HOUSTON DEMOCRATIC WOMEN'S CLUB

Whereas Hon. ALBERT THOMAS, since first entering the House of Representatives in 1937 from the Eighth Congressional District of Texas, has given leadership which has brought distinction to him and to the Democratic Party, which he has faithfully represented, and benefit and recognition to his constituency; and

Whereas he has been among the men, few in number, but irresistible in purpose, upon whom have rested the responsibility and burden of guiding our Nation in times of peace and war, from the past into the limitless expanse of space, and has been one of the most prominent individual members of the U.S. Congress to support and guide the Nation's vast and growing space program; and

Whereas, however hard-pressed by official duties, ALBERT THOMAS has always found the time and the energy to be of help to any individual citizen who has come to him with a problem of any kind, and has given unstintingly of his time and his position always to be available to any constituent who has sought his counsel, and has truly proved himself a friend to every citizen; and

Whereas ALBERT THOMAS, throughout his tenure covering 15 terms in the House of Representatives, has been an outstanding member of the Democratic Party, has given that party wise leadership and faithful support at all times, and has worked in and through the party to accomplish progress for the entire Nation: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Houston Democratic Women's Club do express its admiration and respect for ALBERT THOMAS, and state for all posterity its acknowledgment of the debt every American owes this man on behalf of public service and the general public good, that future generations may study and emulate the life and record of this American patriot.

Passed March 17, 1966.

Mrs. IRL F. KENNERLY,
President.
Mrs. A. RALPH ZOBEL,
First Vice President.
Mrs. C. A. NEAL PICKETT,
Second Vice President.
Mrs. IRA D. SYKES,
Founder.
Mrs. C. P WOOD,
Miss ADELE MANSELL,
Miss BIRNICE MANSELL,
Resolutions Committee.

Attest:

Mrs. C. E. OLSEN,
Secretary.

Resolution by Houston Area Federal Business Association

Whereas the long continuity of leadership in both Houses of the U.S. Congress exercised by statesmen to whom the highest honor is the performance of service for the public welfare, has given our Nation the strength and the vision to surmount the dangers and obstacles in both internal and international affairs that have caused other democracies to falter and fail; and

Whereas the American people have been particularly fortunate in having in the national legislative branch men who through the years have given wisdom to policy and vision to action and guided the ship of state through dangerous waters to a successful completion of each voyage; and

Whereas among the beloved Representatives in Washington who have rendered long and effective service to the American people, none is more outstanding or distinguished and none will be more sorely missed, than Albert Thomas, of the Eighth District of Texas, he who has given such faithful attention to his duty and who, despite the heavy burden of leadership he has always carried, has labored vigorously and faithfully on behalf of the men and women engaged in various aspects of the Federal service throughout the land; and

Whereas since first going to Congress in 1937, Albert Thomas has been an outstanding figure among American statesmen, and his compassion for humanity, his strength of character, and his devotion to the best interests of the American people, have bequeathed his countrymen a legacy of service that will set an inspiring standard of leadership through the years ahead; and

Whereas no Member of the House of Representatives has striven more diligently on behalf of Federal officials and employees than Congressman Thomas, and none has accomplished more for their benefit and security: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Houston Area Federal Business Association do express its admiration for Albert Thomas and his incomparable record in the public service, and do extend to his loved ones its deepest sympathy, sustained in the knowledge that his broad and helpful influence will always be felt in American statecraft and national leadership.

In witness whereof, we have caused our names hereunto to be affixed, this 16th day of February, A.D., 1966.

Neal Pickett, *President.*
Claude M. McLarty,
First Vice President.
John W. Clairborne, Jr., M.D.,
Second Vice President.
Wesley L. Hjornevik,
Third Vice President.
Sam D. W. Low,
Executive Committee.
Mrs. Virginia M. Slate,
Secretary-Treasurer.

TRIBUTE BY HON. GEORGE H. MAHON

OF TEXAS

Mr. Speaker, at its meeting on March 25 the Committee on Appropriations adopted a set of resolutions memorializing the life and service of our late beloved colleague, the Honorable ALBERT THOMAS, of Texas. I insert a copy of the resolutions in the Record at this point so that they may be included in the permanent compilation of eulogies on our departed colleague.

A RESOLUTION BY THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS CONCERNING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF THE LATE HONORABLE ALBERT THOMAS OF TEXAS

Whereas on the morning of Tuesday, the 15th of February 1966, the Honorable ALBERT THOMAS of Texas, in his 30th consecutive year as a Member of the House of Representatives in the service of his country, crossed the great threshold in response to a call from his Maker; and

Whereas for more than a quarter of a century Congressman ALBERT THOMAS served diligently and faithfully as a member of the Committee on Appropriations, providing outstanding service in the administration of the budgetary and appropriation processes of the Nation, accumulating a fund of knowledge about the operations of the agencies and departments of Government; and

Whereas Congressman ALBERT THOMAS, combining this vast fund of knowledge with gifts of persuasion and great courage, was a tireless and talented legislator, an effective leader, who with force of character tempered by a just spirit of mind and heart, walked the corridors of power nobly; and

Whereas in the words of the late President Kennedy, Congressman ALBERT THOMAS was characterized as a statesman with "a young man's interest in the future and a young man's hope for his country" who not only represented his district with distinction but also served well the United States; and

Whereas in the words of President Johnson, "of the qualities that made ALBERT THOMAS a remarkable man, devotion to the people he served and loyalty to his friends stand higher than all": Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That we, the members of the Committee on Appropriations, recognize that in the passing of our colleague, ALBERT THOMAS, we have lost a courageous leader and beloved friend; and be it further

Resolved, That we extend our deepest sympathy to his wife and other members of his family; and, therefore, be it further

Resolved, That these resolutions be entered in the journal of this committee, a copy sent to Mrs. Thomas, and that the chairman of the Committee on Appropriations arrange to include a copy of these resolutions in the ceremonial proceedings of the House of Representatives.

Memorial services held in the main
3 1262 03374 0621
B
F754Hu
FLARE

KEEP CARD IN POCKET

Date Due

DUE	RETURNED	DUE	RETURNED

FLARE
31262033740621